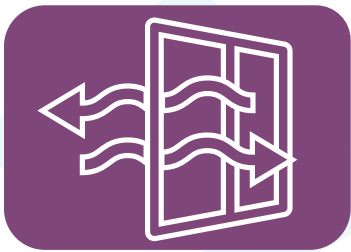


# VENTILATION IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

In healthcare settings, ventilation is important because it helps remove things from the air that we don't want to breathe in – like small virus particles. Good ventilation improves air quality and reduces the risk of germs spreading.

## WHAT TO KNOW



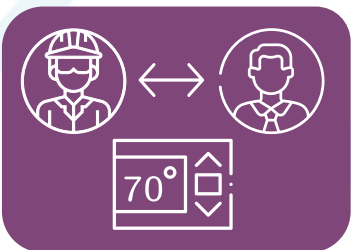
### Understand what an air change is and why recommended air changes per hour are important in healthcare.

- ⌚ An air change means the air in a room is replaced with new air.
- ⌚ Air changes are usually measured by the hour – air changes per hour (ACH).
- ⌚ In healthcare facilities, nearly every type of room has a recommended number of ACHs to help reduce the risk of germs spreading among patients and staff.



### Respect wait times to allow the air in rooms to clear.

- ⌚ The infection prevention or clinical leaders in your area, like your nurse manager, will use the ACH to figure out how long a room should sit empty after a patient with a possible or confirmed respiratory infection has left.
- ⌚ It is okay to enter a room before the air is completely cleared, including while the patient is still there, if you use the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).



### Ask before making changes to the ventilation in a room.

- ⌚ Rooms are often connected in healthcare facilities.
- ⌚ Making a change to the ventilation in one room – like opening a window or closing vents to adjust temperature – can change the ventilation in other places, too.
- ⌚ **That's why it's important to talk to the person or team at your facility that is responsible for maintaining air filtration and ventilation if you have concerns about the ventilation in a room.**



### Make sure vents are not blocked.

- ⌚ A blocked vent could prevent the ventilation system from functioning like it is supposed to.



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