

#my
2021



**Back to School
Update
August 25, 2021**

CORE SAFETY MITIGATIONS 2021-22

IDPH and CDC recommend [various mitigation strategies](#) for schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- **Universal Masking**
- **Handwashing / Respiratory Etiquette**
- **Ventilation**
- **Physical Distancing**
- **Cleaning and Disinfection**
- **Weekly PCR Testing**
- **Contact Tracing / Quarantines**
- **Staying Home When Sick**
- **Encouraging Vaccinations**





VENTILATION/AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

In previous Back to School updates we discussed the following Indoor Air Ventilation and Filtration element of mitigation control

- Our ventilation system is designed to have 3 air changes per hour of clean air
- We increased this amount by 5 by opening the HVAC dampers and allowing 100% outside air into the spaces as weather allows
- We ran the HVAC systems at a higher outside airflow for 2 hours prior to staff / student arrival and for 2 hours after the last scheduled shift of 11 pm
- Filters are checked and changed monthly and noted in the preventative maintenance records database of School Dude. We had selected MERV ratings that are maximized for equipment capabilities, using MERV 13 when equipment allows
- All HVAC equipment was maintained and inspected for proper airflow.



VENTILATION/AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

District 97 will continue to follow industry standards that meet International Mechanical Code following ASHRAE standards, for indoor air quality, and will remain diligent with regular maintenance to ensure that all systems are performing at optimum levels. To increase circulation, we have utilized the following CDC recommendations to improve ventilation:

- Increased introduction of outdoor air by opening outdoor air dampers beyond minimum settings to reduce or eliminate HVAC air recirculation
- Staff has the option to open classroom windows when weather conditions allow
- Rebalanced or adjusted HVAC systems to increase total airflow to occupied spaces when possible
- Turned off any demand-controlled ventilation (DCV) controls that reduce air supply based on occupancy or temperature during occupied hours
- Increased air filtration to as high as possible without significantly reducing design airflow





VENTILATION/AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

- Verified that air filters are properly sized and within their recommended service life and inspect filter housing and racks to ensure appropriate filter fit and minimize air that flows around, instead of through, the filter
- Ensure restroom exhaust fans are functional and operating at full capacity when the building is occupied
- Using portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to enhance air cleaning in higher risk areas such as a nurse's office and / or the isolation room
- Continue running the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for two hours before and after the building is occupied
- Certain activities, including recess and snack breaks, taking place outdoors, when circumstances allow

QUESTIONS?

