



COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE AND RESOURCES

With the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Alberta, we wanted to share relevant resources and information for industry professionals. While the risk in Alberta remains low according to the Chief Medical Officer of Health, we want to ensure that members are prepared.

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

Proper hygiene remains the best way for Albertans to protect themselves, which means:

- Regularly washing your hands
- Avoiding touching your face
- Staying home if you are sick, and covering coughs and sneezes.

Specific questions or health concerns can be directed to Health Link 811.

Alberta public health officials recommend the following actions for employers:

- If employees have visited a Grand Princess Cruise, Iran, or China's Hubei province in the last 14 days, it is recommended that they self-isolate for 14 days, even if they are feeling well.
- If employees have travelled to China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, or Italy in the last 14 days and they are feeling well, self-isolation is not recommended at this time, however that are advised to call Health Link by dialing 811.
- If employees have travelled to anywhere outside of Canada and were in contact with someone who was suspected or confirmed to have the novel coronavirus, or if they were in a health care facility, they are advised to call Health Link by dialing 811 even if they are feeling well, to discuss additional precautions.
- Employers who do not meet any of the above do not need to stay away from work, and do not need any testing or a physician's note to attend.

More information and timely updates from Alberta Health Services can be found [here](#).



ASHRAE (HVAC/INDOOR AIR QUALITY)

ASHRAE, a global professional society that advances research, standards, publishing, and certification of heating ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration and their related fields has further guidance with respect to COVID-19 concerns around the operation and maintenance of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems.

ASHRAE developed a recently approved position document on [Airborne Infectious Diseases](#). The Society's position is that facilities of all types should follow, as a minimum, the latest practical standards and guidelines.

ASHRAE advises building management to follow the latest practical standards and guidelines as a minimum, which can be found below:

- [ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2019, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality](#)– Outlines minimum ventilation rates and other measures intended to provide IAQ that is acceptable to human occupants and that minimize adverse health effects.
- [ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2019, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Residential Buildings](#)– Defines the roles of and minimum requirements for mechanical and natural ventilation systems and the building envelope intended to provide acceptable indoor air quality in low-rise residential buildings.
- [ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2017, Ventilation of Health Care Facilities](#) – Ventilation guidance, regulation, and mandates to designers of health care facilities. It addresses hospital spaces, outpatient spaces, and nursing home spaces.
- [ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2-2017, Method of Testing General Ventilation Air-Cleaning Devices for Removal Efficiency by Particle Size](#) – Establishes a method of laboratory testing to measure the performance of general ventilation air-cleaning devices in removing particles of specific diameters.
- [ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2017, Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy](#) – Specifies conditions for acceptable thermal environments and is intended for use in design, operation, and commissioning of buildings and other occupied spaces.
- [ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 185.2-2014, Method of Testing Ultraviolet Lamps for Use in HVAC&R Units or Air Ducts to Inactivate Microorganisms on Irradiated Surfaces](#) – Establishes a test method for measuring the intensity of ultraviolet lamps on irradiated surfaces under typical HVAC&R operating conditions.

Because small particles remain airborne for some period of time, the design and operation of HVAC systems that move air can affect disease transmission in several ways, such as by the following:

- Supplying clean air to susceptible occupants
- Containing contaminated air and/or exhausting it to the outdoors
- Diluting the air in a space with cleaner air from outdoors and/or by filtering the air
- Cleaning the air within the room

ASHRAE recommends the following strategies of interest to address disease transmission: dilution ventilation, laminar and other in-room flow regimes, differential room pressurization, personalized ventilation, source capture ventilation, filtration (central or unitary), and UVGI (upper room, in-room, and in the airstream).

Owners, operators, and engineers are encouraged to collaborate with infection prevention specialists knowledgeable about transmission of infection in the community and the workplace and about strategies for prevention and risk mitigation.

Additional information from ASHRAE is available [here](#).

BOMA CANADA 2019 PANDEMIC GUIDE

BOMA Canada has a recently developed 2019 Pandemic Guide that provides building owners and managers with important tools as well as up to date knowledge for preparedness and response. That guide is available at [this link](#).