

## **Reminder to keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

The Department for Education is providing CO2 monitors to state-funded education settings, including early years, schools and further education colleges in the autumn term. Please do make use of these monitors which can help you to understand the ventilation needed in each setting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/covid-19-schools-operational-guidance>

### **3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**

When your school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.

You should identify any poorly ventilated spaces as part of your risk assessment and take steps to improve fresh air flow in these areas, giving particular consideration when holding events where visitors such as parents are on site, for example, school plays.

Mechanical ventilation is a system that uses a fan to draw fresh air or extract air from a room. These should be adjusted to increase the ventilation rate wherever possible and checked to confirm that normal operation meets current guidance and that only fresh outside air is circulated.

If possible, systems should be adjusted to full fresh air or, if this is not possible, then systems should be operated as normal as long as they are within a single room and supplemented by an outdoor air supply.

Where mechanical ventilation systems exist, you should ensure that they are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary, external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

You should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

The Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the COVID-19 pandemic and CIBSE COVID-19 advice provides more information, see below link.

[https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/index.htm?utm\\_source=30%20November%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/index.htm?utm_source=30%20November%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

Please note that colds are viral and spread through coughing and sneezing and are not caught from cold weather.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold/>