



Classroom Ventilation Information

August 30, 2021

The list below describes the steps U-M Facilities & Operations has taken to ensure a safe classroom environment while we remain in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- HVAC standards in campus classrooms are high. Our systems are designed to meet or exceed the Michigan Building Code requirements for airflow at maximum occupancy.
- As a routine practice, ventilation systems in campus buildings are inspected and maintained on a quarterly basis.
- Of the 500+ classroom designated spaces on the Ann Arbor campus, only three lack mechanical ventilation and a MERV 13 or higher air filter, which is the U-M standard. Those three classrooms are in Burton Memorial Tower, and the school managing those spaces has taken countermeasures to address the concerns.
- Following CDC guidance, U-M has disabled demand-control-ventilation controls that reduce air supply, such as occupancy sensors, in all of our academic and research facilities. This provides additional overall building ventilation, even in unoccupied spaces.
- U-M has extended HVAC run times before and after building operating hours to provide additional daily air changes.
- The MERV 13 or higher filters that we use meet CDC recommendations and are efficient at capturing airborne viruses. Upgrading to HEPA air filters on existing HVAC systems can significantly diminish airflow and air change rates. The marginal benefit from additional filtering is outweighed by impact on airflow.
- Following CDC guidance, U-M has increased the introduction of outside air, where possible and while maintaining temperature and humidity control. (Lab spaces already use 100% outside air as a campus requirement.)
- In preparation for the fall semester, in addition to its routine preventive maintenance activities, Facilities & Operations performed additional inspections of classroom spaces on campus to ensure proper operation of HVAC systems.

For more information, please see the [COVID-19 HVAC Guidelines for U-M Facilities](#)