



The University is working to ensure it provides a safe working environment by enhancing air management/ventilation on campus.

The mechanical systems across the campus are vast in terms of their varying capacity and capability.

Improvements in the ventilation in buildings on campus is just one of a series of COVID safe control measures to be implemented as part of our gradual return to campus planning that helps us reduce the risk of COVID transmission to as low as reasonably practicable. Progress of the 4 step plan should not hinder your local area planning or be a barrier to returning to campus

The University is using industry guidelines developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE - [see here](#)) to guide us in producing a suitable strategy.

Not all buildings on campus have the same building mechanical systems for ventilation and filtration. Each building may be subject to a different implementation process depending on the capability of the system. Changes will buildings will be gradual and will continue into 2022.

Maximising fresh air content is one of the industry core recommendations for reducing airborne aerosol exposure. Facilities and Services are testing how we can adjust this capability with our mechanical systems. There are four strategies available and the implementation of one of these options, will depend on the actual building and its existing infrastructure.

Option 1 - Adjust set points for Building CO2 values. By lowering the CO2 set point through our building mechanical systems, fresh air content is flushed into the building, reducing CO2 levels in the space.

Option 2 - Adjust the built in energy saving cycles to increase fresh air content. Additional fresh air content is flushed into the building. Internal temperature is monitored to ensure that occupant comfort is maintained.

Option 3 - Pre and post purging of buildings with fresh air. Fresh air content is flushed into the building pre and post occupancy each day into order to purge the building. This is most suitable in teaching spaces. F&S will be commencing testing of these applications in our high occupancy spaces over the next month to ensure a smooth transition during broader implementation.

Option 4 - Air filtration. Upgrading the current filter systems in high occupancy spaces with suitable air conditioning systems. This type of application is achievable and will improve our filtration efficiency by up to 300 per cent (for 3 – 10 µm particles). Whilst a lot of discussion has been flagged around HEPA filtration, this is a highly complex filtration system and cannot be immediately adapted given the current capability of mechanical systems.

The F&S team is currently reviewing the ventilation and filtration in Menzies, Hancock, Chifley and Law library. The following enhancements will occur in from mid-November 2021:

- Pre and post occupancy purging will be implemented.
- Improved efficiency filters will be procured for suitable systems.

Further information on the option that will be implemented in each building will be provided from December 2021 as the works progress.