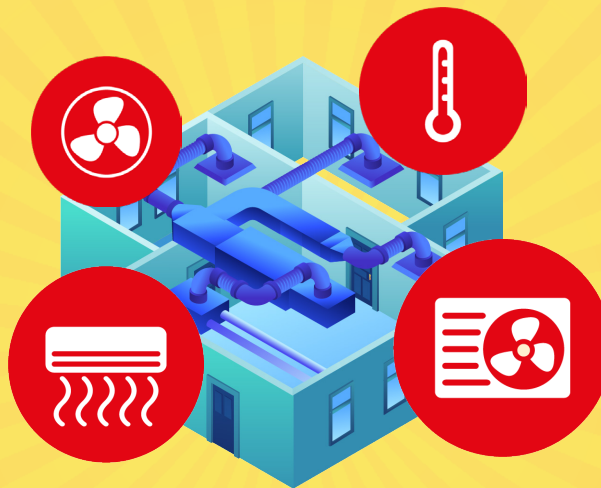


COOLING SYSTEMS & COVID-19

AIR CONDITIONING, VENTILATION SYSTEMS, FANS & COVID-19

Air conditioning & ventilation systems that are inspected, cleaned, well-maintained & operated should not increase the risk of virus transmission.

- Centralised ventilation system that remove & circulate air to different rooms should switch off recirculation & use a fresh air supply.
- Other types of air conditioning systems do not need to be adjusted.



Electric fans are safe in single occupancy rooms.

- Fans in collective spaces should be avoided when several people are present in this space.
- If unavoidable, increase outdoor air exchange & minimise air blowing from one person to another to reduce the potential spread of any airborne or aerosolized viruses.

Even in well ventilated environments, employees should continue to practice physical distancing & hand hygiene.

FACT

- COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including areas with hot and humid weather. Some countries reporting the highest number of cases have average daily temperatures above 40 C.
- All people can potentially fall ill to both heat stress and COVID-19 however, COVID-19 can further amplified the physiological and social susceptibility of many vulnerable groups in hot weather:
 - Older people >65 years.
 - Underlying health conditions i.e., cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease, kidney disease, diabetes, obesity, mental health issues (e.g., psychiatric disorders, depression).
 - People on medication: some medications for the diseases listed above impair thermoregulation.
 - Essential workers who work outdoors during the hottest times of the day or who work in places that are not temperature controlled.
 - People who have, or are recovering from, COVID-19.
- Fear of seeking healthcare during COVID-19 may result in preventable heat-related deaths. The fear of infection results in delay to seeking health care for non-COVID-19 related issues even when critically needed.
 - Communicate awareness of the risks and signs of heat stress, know what actions to take to cool down, and are able to seek medical care if needed.
 - Recognize risk perceptions and help manage fears.
 - Communication reliable and actionable information on how to self-protect from both heat stress and COVID-19, while addressing misinformation that may be circulating.
 - Use trusted and reliable sources including government and public health agencies.

FAKE

- Hot weather exposure to sun of temperatures above 25 C DOES NOT prevent or cure COVID-19.
- There is no evidence to support that mosquitoes or ticks could spread the disease.
- Taking a hot bath WILL NOT prevent COVID-19.