

ASHRAE Technical FAQ

ID 100

Question Does ASHRAE publish guidance related to the role of HVAC systems in the transmission of airborne infectious diseases?

ASHRAE discusses airborne infectious disease transmission in various publications (listed below) related to health care facilities as well as various high occupancy density applications. The ASHRAE Position Document – [Airborne Infectious Diseases](#) summarizes ASHRAE’s official position on the subject.

Answer Relevant articles can be located through a literature search online using Scopus, Pubmed, or Google Scholar using keywords such as “airflow”, “infectious disease”, “HVAC”, and “airborne”.

This subject is one of the main themes of [ASHRAE’s IAQ 2010 Conference](#) which took place in November 10-12, 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. More technical papers are available in the ASHRAE bookstore (www.ashrae.org/bookstore).

A goal in the [2010-2018 ASHRAE Research Strategic Plan](#) is to “Understand influences of HVAC on airborne pathogen transmission in public spaces and develop effective control strategies”. ASHRAE aims to encourage research proposals that address achieving this goal.

ASHRAE Pubs

ASHRAE Position Document – [Airborne Infectious Diseases](#)

[2015 ASHRAE Handbook - HVAC Applications](#), Chapter [A08](#)

[HVAC Design Manual for Hospitals and Clinics, 2nd edition, 2013](#)

[ASHRAE Standard 170-2017](#), plus [ASHRAE BOD approved addenda](#)

[ASHRAE Standard 161-2018](#), plus [ASHRAE BOD approved addenda](#)

EHC Emerging Issue – [Biological agents and airborne transmission](#)

Topic References airborne infectious disease, SARS, infection control, hospitals, healthcare facilities, high occupancy density

	Cognizant ASHRAE Committees	Refer to Organization
1	TC 9.6	WHO
2	TC 9.3	AIA
3	EHC	ASHE
4	SSPC 170	
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