



## Contra Costa Community College District

Districtwide Facilities Readiness (HVAC Assessments) In-Person Return Preparations - Fall 2021

**District Office Update** 

May, 2021

# **Meeting Overview**

- Introductions
- The HVAC Assessment Process and Outcomes:
  - Layered Strategy Approach: The Swiss Cheese Model
  - The Role of HVAC in Covid-19 Risk Mitigation
  - HVAC System Recommendations
  - Assessments Overview
  - Communication: the use of dashboards and checklists
  - Ouestions & Answers:
    - Please post your questions in chat to ensure we can answer as many as possible
    - This presentation and a FAQ sheet will be posted on District Covid-19 Resource website: https://www.4cd.edu/covid19/index.html

### Introductions

### **Taylor Engineering LLP (Alameda)**

Taylor Engineering is a nationally recognized engineering firm specializing in mechanical systems design and construction, energy conservation, indoor air quality, controls, and system commissioning.

www.taylorengineers.com

www.taylorengineers.com/taylor-engineering-covid-19-whitepaper

#### Team members:

Hwakong Cheng, P.E., Principal – Project Lead

Steve Taylor, P.E., FASHRAE, Principal and Founder – Subject Matter Expert

### **Introductions**

#### TRC:

TRC is a national engineering firm with a 40 year presence in the Bay Area. Experts in behind the meter systems and energy efficiency. <a href="https://www.trccompanies.com/">https://www.trccompanies.com/</a>

#### Team members:

#### Colman Snaith, PE, QCxP, CMVP – Director of Engineering

Leads a team of engineers specializing in understanding how buildings use energy, identifying efficiency opportunities, and verifying actual operations though metering.

#### Paul David, PE, CRM, CEPP, LEED AP – VP of Engineering

Responsible for TRC's Advanced Energy national engineering practice.

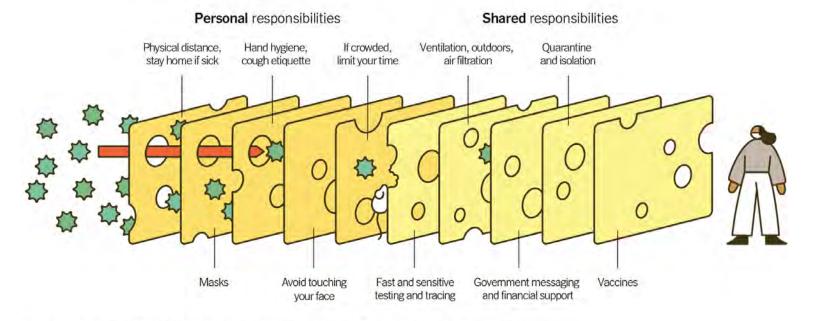
#### Gwelen Paliaga, PE, LEED AP – Director of Research and Technology Commercialization

Leads cross-discipline research and consulting that combines engineering, building science, and human factors to advance building technologies. Appointed to the ASHRAE Standards committee responsible for overseeing all ASHRAE Standard.

### The Swiss Cheese Model of Pandemic Defense

#### **Multiple Layers Improve Success**

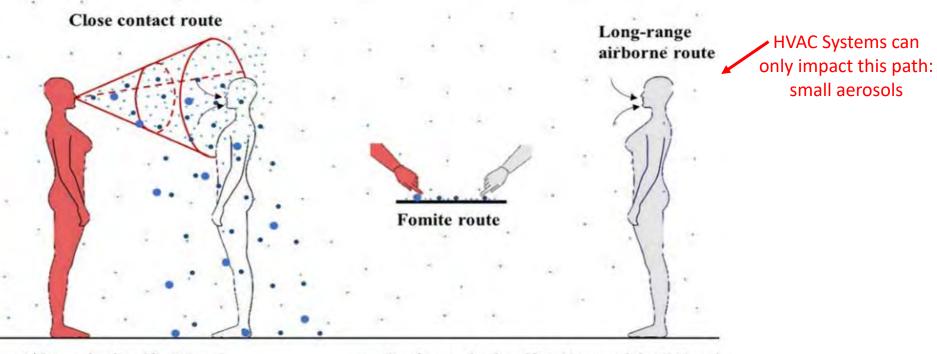
The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.



Recognizing that no single intervention is perfect at preventing spread.
Yet, collection of safeguards can achieve the desired level of protection.

Source: Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reason. Illustration by Rose Wong

# How is COVID-19 transmitted?

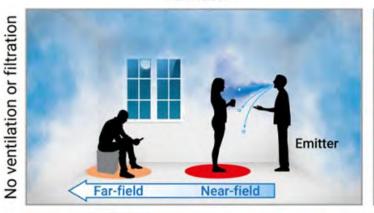


- Airborne droplets (do ≤ 10 µm)
- Large droplets (do > 100 μm)

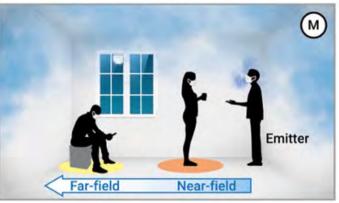
Respiratory droplets (d<sub>0</sub> > 10 μm and d<sub>0</sub> ≤ 100 μm)

### The Role of HVAC in Covid-19 Risk Mitigation

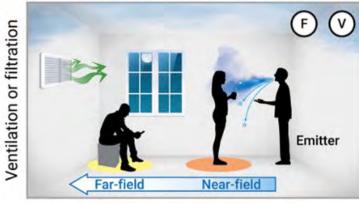
No mask

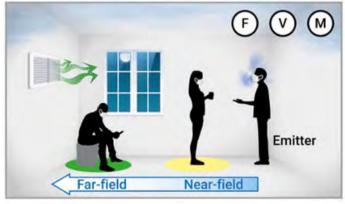






Masks are needed to mitigate near-field transmission.
No amount of ventilation can help.





Masks are also needed to reduce the source strength of aerosol generation.

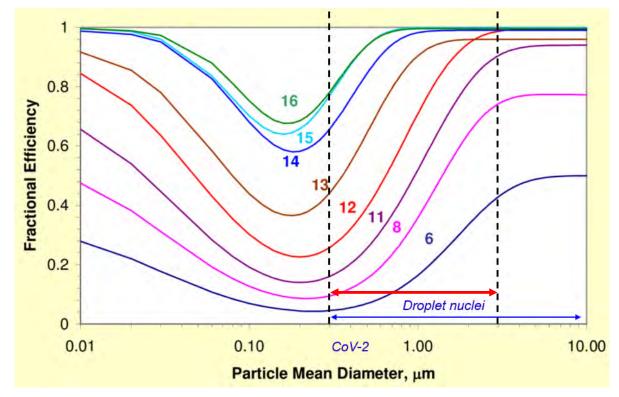
The amount of ventilation needed otherwise would be impractical.

### Filtration or outdoor air?

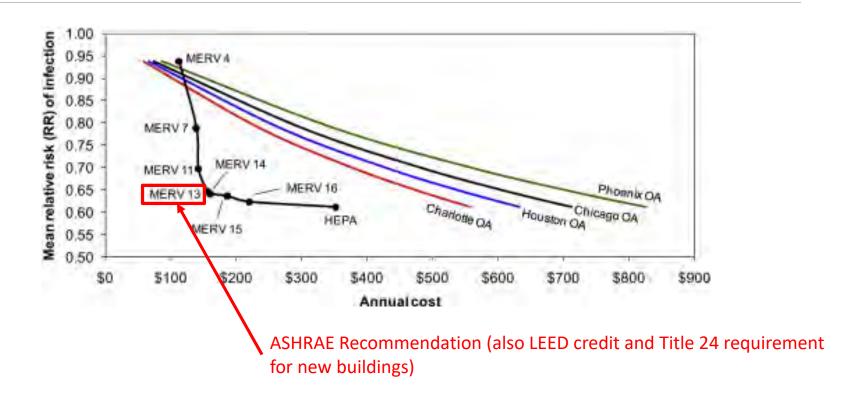




#### Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV)



### Filtration or outdoor air?



# **HVAC System Recommendations**

#### **Ventilation:**

- Minimum required ventilation rates per applicable codes and standards (California Title 24)
- HVAC outdoor air controls are working (+ extra outdoor air when feasible)
- Start systems at least 1 hour before occupancy and at least 1 hour after.

#### Air Filtration:

 Confirm / improve filtration to MERV 13+

#### Assessments

|            | Ventilation                 |                             |     |                           |                   |       |                  |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| Status     | Vent-<br>ilation<br>Airflow | Econo-<br>mizer<br>Function | DCV | Adjust<br>Econo-<br>mizer | EF Oper-<br>ation | Total | Filter<br>Rating |
| Pass       |                             |                             |     |                           |                   |       |                  |
| Issue      |                             |                             |     |                           |                   |       |                  |
| Incomplete |                             |                             |     |                           |                   |       |                  |

#### Recommendations

|              | Ventilation     |                      |                         |              |                  |    |                |        |       |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|----|----------------|--------|-------|
| Campus       | Repair<br>Econo | Re-<br>balance<br>OA | Econo<br>Prog/<br>Setpt | DCV /<br>Occ | Portable<br>HEPA | EF | Ceiling<br>Fan | Filter | Other |
| All          |                 |                      |                         |              |                  |    |                |        |       |
| Contractor 1 |                 |                      |                         |              |                  |    |                |        |       |
| Contractor 2 |                 |                      |                         |              |                  |    |                |        |       |
| M&O Staff    |                 |                      |                         |              |                  |    |                |        |       |

### Overview of the Assessment

# Field assessments will reveal current conditions and where modifications are need.

TRC is in the process of assessing all of the HVAC systems serving all of buildings at every campus:

- 6 sites
- 129 buildings
- 2,812 rooms
- 1.7 million square foot of space

A team of 8 engineers focused on helping 4CD complete these HVAC assessment

Collaborating with campus Maintenance and Operations staff to gain access and complete the assessments.

|        |           | Total   |                  | Already  |
|--------|-----------|---------|------------------|----------|
| Campus | Buildings | Systems | Priority Systems | Surveyed |
| DVC    | 60        | 211     | 131              | 84       |
| LMC    | 29        | 98      | 55               | 41       |
| CCC    | 35        | 96      | 46               | 0        |
| BEC    | 1         | 21      | 18               | 4        |
| SRC    | 2         | 12      | 11               | 0        |
| 4CD    | 2         | 2       | 0                | 0        |
| Total  | 129       | 440     | 261              | 129      |

# Overview of the Assessment Approach

#### TRC is focused on:

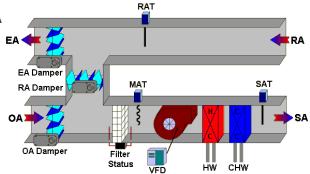
- Assessing the condition and functionality of the units
- Measuring the total outside air provided to the building (ventilation)
- Collecting information to support calculating the total amount of clean air delivered to the building (filtered)

#### Measurements include outside air (OA) and supply air (SA):

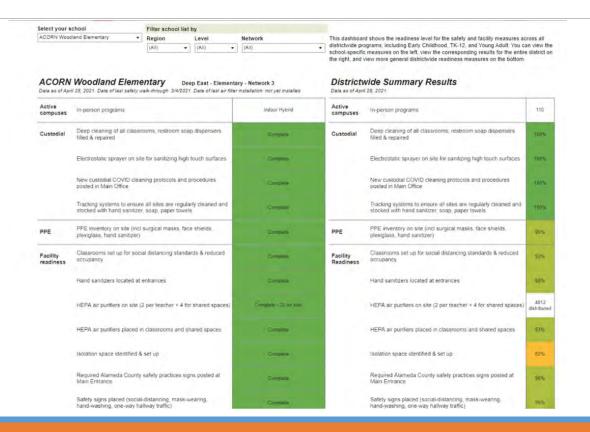
- High ventilation air conditions full supply air flow & maximum OA
- Intermediate ventilation air conditions full supply air flow & minimum OA
- Low ventilation air conditions minimum supply air flow & minimum OA

#### Standard approach with variations based on actual conditions:

- Different types of air handling units
- Different layouts
- Different control strategies



### Communication: Dashboards and Checklists



## Next Steps...

### HVAC Assessments Plan Development

• Baseline data collection process – complete

• Framework for analysis and recommendations – complete

#### Field Assessments

• Target completion of priority buildings in May – 90% complete; Remainder of buildings in June; follow up with M&O teams is in progress

### Analysis and Review of Assessment Outcomes

• Reconcile the intended use based on in-person plans & HVAC assessment outcomes;

• Priority buildings – May; remainder of buildings in June/July

### Recommended Measures Implementation

• Priority buildings: now – summer; remainder of buildings August/September

• We are competing with other districts + private orgs.; our speed is influenced by that

Optimize Source Control, Ongoing Education & Information Sharing

• Building on already great work that's been completed; Importance of partnership & following CDC and OSHA public health guidance.

#### **Active Communication**

- Actively communicate throughout the process; utilization of existing districtwide meetings for updates
- Progress dashboard and checklists: target June/July for dashboard implementation

### **Team Contacts:**

Hwakong Cheng, P.E., Principal – Project Lead hcheng@taylor-engineering.com

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Taylor Engineering White Paper (reference)

https://taylorengineers.com/taylor-engineering-covid-19-whitepaper

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# Thank you for your time! Questions/Comments