EDUCATION INDUSTRY INSIGHTS - VOL 3

HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SUPER-SPREAD INFECTIONS IN HIGH-VOLUME UNIVERSITIES

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INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic was proof of how rapidly all infections can spread in the right circumstances. With it, many of the guidelines about infection prevention became stricter to help curb the spread. While the threat of COVID-19 has eased, other harmful infections can still make their way through premises if the wrong infection control methods are in place.

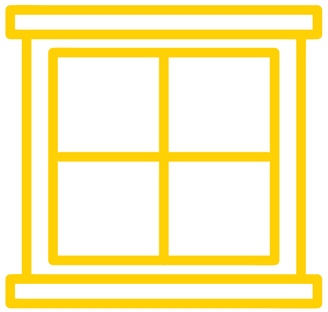
In settings, like universities, which can occupy tens of thousands of students at a time, this prevents the opportunity for a superspreader outbreak, which can have damaging, long-term impacts on student and staff health.

The following e-book, therefore, shows what universities can do to curb the spread of infections to promote a safer environment.

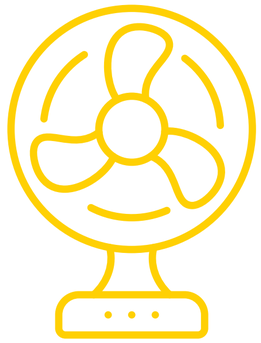
PRIORITISE VENTILATION

Air-borne infections are known to linger and grow in the air, especially if they are trapped in a warm, damp environment, such as university science labs.

Prioritising ventilation provides an escape for bacteria and pathogens to exit a room or building, which can curb the rate of infection significantly. Some ways this can be achieved include:



Opening doors & windows

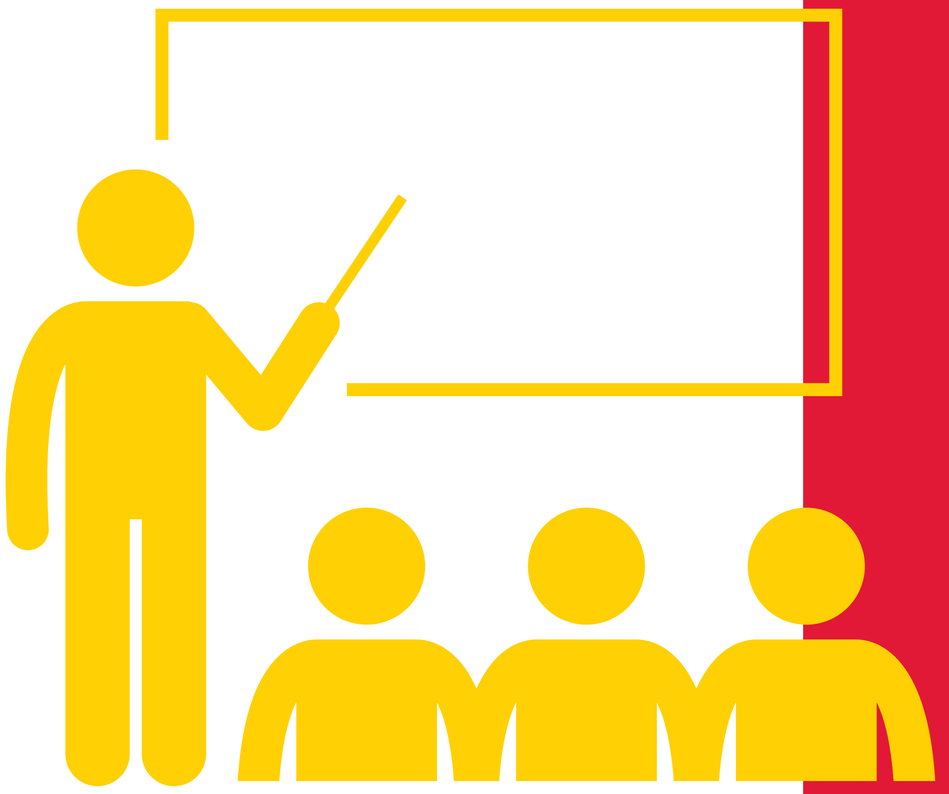


Turning on fans (but pointing them away from students)

Using air filters

CLEAN BETWEEN LESSONS

Bacteria spreads rapidly through touch. For example, should a student sneeze on their hands and later touch a table, this action can cause thousands of harmful pathogens to begin spreading throughout a classroom.



Allocating additional university resources to cleaning and sanitisation allows cleaners to sanitise rooms between each class. Doing so can eliminate pathogens before another group of students enters the room, which can reduce the chances of a superspreader event.

USE THE RIGHT CLEANING EQUIPMENT

It is critical to use products that are known to eradicate microbes, including HYGEN cleaning cloths and mops, as this can certify that the cleaning and sanitisation process has been effective.

ALLOW STUDENTS TO HELP CURB THE SPREAD

University-age students likely better know the risks associated with infections when compared to primary-age or high-school-age students. So, it's important to encourage them to help curb the spread, especially when the high capacity of students can make infection control difficult. Universities can do so by:

Providing hand sanitiser stations at campus entries to eradicate external bacteria from the skin.

Ensuring soap dispensers in washrooms are always filled with suitable antibacterial refills.

Providing the correct indoor bins and outdoor bins to ensure effective waste management.

TEACH ONLINE WHERE POSSIBLE

Teaching some classes online, especially those that would otherwise occur when the university is at capacity, can help students avoid infections altogether.

We recommend using a combination of both physical and online classes to provide a good university experience while working to keep students as safe as possible.

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