

# Make the air in your home safer during COVID-19 by increasing ventilation and filtration.

You can take steps to make your home's air safer when guests visit.

## Tips to Improve Ventilation and Filtration in Your Home



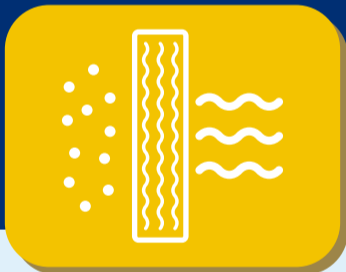
If your home uses **mechanical ventilation** (a central heating and air conditioning system that moves air through ducts):

- Install a higher efficiency filter into your HVAC system—if possible a MERV 13. Set the system's fan to ON,
- Attach a MERV 13 filter to a box fan (not placed in a window) to create a DIY portable air cleaner, or
- Use a portable HEPA air cleaner.



If your home uses **natural ventilation** (windows that open, radiators for heating, no central air conditioning):

- Open windows to increase ventilation; make sure you can feel a cross breeze,
- Attach a MERV 13 filter to a box fan (not placed in a window) to create a DIY portable air cleaner, or
- Use a portable HEPA air cleaner.



If you are using a **portable HEPA air cleaner**, use one that can clean the size of the room where you are using it. Run it continuously, if guests are in your home.

Consider using a **carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sensor** to help monitor good indoor air ventilation. Outdoor air levels of CO<sub>2</sub> hover around 400 parts per million. Indoor readings higher than 800 ppm indicate that your ventilation is not optimal.



### Don't forget:

- SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, lingers in air and can travel more than 6 feet. It can also accumulate if there are people crowded in an indoor space.
- It's spread by sick and asymptomatic people who shed the virus with every breath.
- The higher the local infection rate, the more people shedding virus in your community.
- Wear masks always, except when you are at home with people you live with. If someone is in your home who does not live there, everyone should wear masks.



### Links to More Resources:

Do it yourself: [Box-Fan Air Filter](#)

*The New York Times*: [Mask work. Really. We'll Show You How.](#)

[How can airborne transmission of COVID-19 indoors be minimized?](#)

*Increased ventilation and filtration will reduce but not eliminate the risk for exposure.*