

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



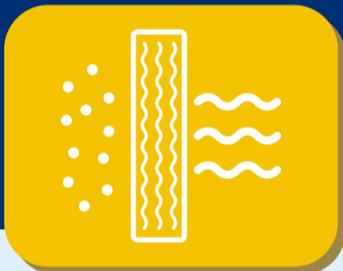
If your home uses **mechanical ventilation** (a central heating and air conditioning system that moves air through ducts):

- 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 (CO₂) sensor** to help monitor good indoor air ventilation. Outdoor air levels of CO₂ 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:

DIY box fan filters

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.