

IEQ-GA's Position on the Airborne Transmission of COVID-19

There is great concern about transmission through the air of infectious diseases, especially COVID-19, among the healthcare workers and administrators in healthcare facilities, including long-term care facilities; office workers; retail workers and patrons; manufacturing workers; and residents in private and public facilities.

IEQ-GA supports the position that airborne transmission of COVID-19 is sufficiently likely as a route of infection that airborne exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus should be controlled by effective measures, including ventilation, filtration and air cleaning. As summarized by Morawska and Cao (2020), there is substantial evidence to suggest the possibility of airborne transmission.

Changes to building operations, including the operation of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems, by trained and qualified personnel with the technical assistance and management by a professional engineer can help to reduce the risk of airborne exposures to COVID-19 in these settings. These changes must be performed in a safe manner in accordance with all applicable governmental regulations so that risk of infection of workers is minimized while performing this work.

For information about the IEQ-GA, please visit the organization's website (www.ieq-ga.net).

Reference:

Morawska, L. and J. Cao. 2020. Airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2: The world should face the reality. *Environment International* v. 139. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2020.105730>