
IEQ-GA – Presidential Column (March, 2020)

IEQ-GA and COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

As President of IEQ-GA, I want to first express my heartfelt condolences on behalf of the member organizations to all that have lost someone close due to COVID-19, including family, friends and colleagues. IEQ-GA also wishes to all that are suffering with the virus at this time and the future a speedy and complete recovery.

As a multi-national member organization, IEQ-GA has as one of its objectives to encourage the member organizations to think together, work together and speak with one voice on IEQ issues. The alliance was formed as an interdisciplinary, international working group of member organizations interested in indoor air quality, thermal comfort, lighting, acoustic science, technology, and applications.

The COVID-19 virus has caused unprecedented harm and illness to thousands of people throughout the world. It has been responsible for economic disruption in many countries, specifically Italy where one of our member organizations (AiCARR) has canceled events and conference due to the virus. It is expected that there will be additional postponements and cancelations of conferences, and the IEQ-GA website will take note of these announcements as they become available. All member organizations of IEQ-GA in Europe, Asia and North America have witnessed the rapid spread of the virus, and the adverse health consequences. In response to the spread of the virus, three (3) of our member organizations ([AIHA](#); [ASHRAE](#); [REHVA](#)) have linked their guidance documents and standards on their webpages dedicated to COVID-19. Please let others know that the IEQ-GA website is where the latest information on COVID-19 will become available as soon as possible.

We at IEQ-GA encourage the sharing of scientific and technical documents that can help 'flatten the curve' over the next period of time until a vaccine is available for the virus. IEQ-GA and its member organizations stand ready to assist with the development and distribution of these documents as appropriate to its member organizations and all those needing guidance on addressing issues related to COVID-19 coronavirus.

Again, the upmost thought of myself and all of IEQ-GA is with the victims of the virus to date, and those still recovering. We stand ready to provide expert assistance and advice as needed to address the continuing issues of the pandemic.

Unfortunately, we have to expect more victims. We believe that the information provided by our members can be of use to manage this pandemic. Donald Weekes, President of the IEQ-GA

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