



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT HVAC FILTER MAINTENACE PROGRAM IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Coppin State University's Facilities Management Department has initiated the following changes to reduce the potential of airborne transmission of COVID-19. Although improvements to ventilation and air cleaning cannot, on their own, eliminate the risk of airborne transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends precautions to reduce the potential for airborne transmission of the virus. These precautions include increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as part of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, handwashing, and other precautions.

Heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems are used to maintain indoor air temperature and humidity at healthy and comfortable levels. We recognized that a well-maintained and operated system can reduce the spread of COVID-19 in indoor spaces.

Indoor Air and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Coppin State has contracted with its HVAC contractor, Johnson Controls Inc., to provide the following:

1. Upgrade all building's HVAC filters from a *MERV-8 filter to a MERV-13 filter with a replacement frequency of monthly versus quarterly.

NOTE: Industry standard for MERV-13 filter replacement is 60-90 days.

2. Manually operate the air dampers for each building's HVAC system to increase fresh air intake of up to 75% depending on the outdoor temperature and humidity levels.

*(MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. The MERV rating is the primary rating system used for air filtration. Higher ratings remove a larger percentage and broader range of debris from the air).

A description of the referenced MERV filter levels is as follows:

- A **MERV-8** filter traps lint, pollen, dust mites and mold spores.
- A **MERV-13** filter is so fine that it traps microscopic viruses and bacteria in addition to those contaminants listed above.

<p>MERV 8 Home Select</p> <p>MPR 600 FPR 5</p>  <p>DUST & LINT POLLEN DUST MITES MOLD</p>	<p>MERV 13 Home Ultimate</p> <p>MPR 1500-1900 FPR 10</p>  <p>DUST & LINT POLLEN DUST MITES MOLD PET DANDER SMOKE SMOG COUGH & SNEEZE VIRUS BACTERIA</p>	
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