The University has taken a proactive stance in trying to limit the spread of COVID-19. Some of these campus wide initiatives include the campus COVID-19 vaccination/testing requirement and the indoor face covering requirement. There are also a number of things we have done with our HVAC systems on campus to help minimize transmission wherever possible. All of these measures are in line with recommendations from ASHRAE and CDC for reopening schools and universities.

- F&S has completed inspection and maintenance of all (2,000+) HVAC systems on campus. We are continuing to inspect and maintain our HVAC systems to ensure they are working as intended.
- We have verified that classrooms and shared spaces are properly ventilated with fresh air per ASHRAE Standard 62.1. This standard outlines how much fresh, outside air should be brought into the building thru air handling equipment based on criteria such as occupancy and space usage.
  - Last summer we focused on reviewing the classrooms that were to be used for in-person classes for fall of 2020. During spring and early summer of 2021 we reviewed the remainder of the departmental and general/unassigned classrooms on campus (totaling over 800) to determine which rooms have mechanical ventilation.
  - We also asked campus to provide us with lists of rooms which will be utilized as shared spaces. These are places where multiple occupants are going to be in a space for an extended period of time, such as shared offices/cubicle areas, conference rooms, labs, breakrooms, etc. During spring and early summer of 2021, we also reviewed over 2,600 shared spaces.
  - The vast majority of both classrooms and shared spaces on campus have mechanical ventilation.
  - During our review, some spaces were identified that do not have mechanical ventilation. For these rooms, ASHRAE recommends use of operable windows (where available) to provide fresh air, or the use of air cleaning devices such as portable HEPA units. We are recommending these two strategies for spaces that lack mechanical ventilation, and have made portable HEPA units available for departments to purchase.
- Early in the pandemic, we also extended HVAC run times both before and after occupancy to flush buildings and improve indoor air quality.
- Prior to the pandemic, demand controlled ventilation was used as an energy savings strategy to decrease ventilation levels when spaces when they are lightly occupied. We have lowered the CO₂ setpoints on these systems to ensure higher ventilation levels across campus.
- Since last summer, we have been upgrading filtration to MERV-13 efficiency across campus wherever possible.
As of the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester, approximately 11,500 filters on campus have been upgraded to MERV-13.

- We have reviewed a number of products and technologies that are available to help improve indoor air quality. Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) is one such technology that can be put in air handling units or ductwork, which has been shown to kill viruses such as SARS-COV-2. To date, we have not found any documented evidence that this virus can survive in a sufficient viral load to infect another individual after passing thru a ducted air handling system. For this reason, we chose to focus our time and efforts on other measures that can have a greater impact, such as increasing ventilation and filtration.

- We are also flushing potable water systems across campus on a recurring basis.

If you have further questions, you can contact the F&S Health and Safety Response Teams by sending an email to covid19fsconsulting@illinois.edu.