

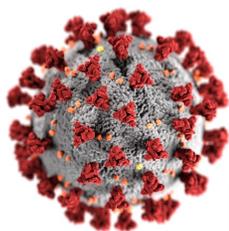


FRaBSA COVID-19 Webinar

Friday April 24, 2020

12:00 -1:30 pm MDT

Thank you to the Education Committee for arranging for the speakers and thank you to all of the speakers. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Who Participated?



Registrants	431
Attendees	308
FRaBSA Members	45
Educational Institute Attendees	147
UDSA	13
NIH	9
CDC	13
Other Government Entities	12
Canada	3

If you missed it - here is a link to the recorded webinar:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vRGzw7PB3c>

REOCCUPYING BUILDINGS— FACILITIES PERSPECTIVE

Many of us have been working from home over the past few months. As our businesses and campuses begin to reopen, there are some precautions that we need to think about.

HVAC

- Review control sequences to verify systems are operating in such a way as to maintain required ventilation, temperature and humidity conditions.
- Review outdoor airflow rates compared to the most recent version of ASHRAE Standard 62.1 or current state-adopted code requirements.
- Consider having airflows and system capacities reviewed by design professionals to determine if additional ventilation can be provided without adversely impacting equipment performance and building Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ).
- Mechanical systems should operate in occupied mode for minimum period of one week prior to students/staff returning while assuring the outside air dampers are open.
- Verify filters are installed correctly.
- Develop standards for frequency of filter replacement and type of filters to be utilized.
- Select filtration levels (MERV ratings) that are maximized for equipment capabilities, use MERV 13 if equipment allows, while assuring the pressure drop is less than the fans capability. See related article.

Domestic water systems shall be prepared for use:

- Systems should be flushed to remove potential contaminants from stagnant equipment, piping, fixtures, etc..
- Domestic cold-water systems should be flushed with all fixtures on a branch of piping opened simultaneously for a minimum period of five minutes – preferred approach is to have all building fixtures open at same time if possible – if not, care should be taken to ensure flow rate is adequate to flush piping mains and branch lines.
- Domestic hot water systems should be flushed with all fixtures on a branch of piping opened simultaneously for a minimum period of 15 minutes – preferred approach is to have all building fixtures open at same time if possible – if not, care should be taken to ensure flow rate is adequate to flush piping mains and branch lines.
- A decrease in water usage in buildings closed or with limited access during the pandemic can increase the risk of bacteria growth in building plumbing and associated equipment. Facility managers and building owners can help mitigate the risk of water-borne pathogens, such as Legionella bacteria, the cause of Legionnaire's disease, by developing a water management plan. [ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 188-2018, Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems](#) establishes minimum legionellosis risk management requirements for building water systems.

REOCCUPYING BUILDINGS— FACILITIES PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

Workers performing maintenance and/or replacing filters on any ventilation system with the potential for viral contamination should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

- When feasible, filters can be disinfected with a 10% bleach solution or another appropriate disinfectant, approved for use against SARS-CoV-2, before removal.
- Filters (disinfected or not) can be bagged and disposed of in regular trash, or applicable local health and safety standards.
- When maintenance tasks are completed, maintenance personnel should immediately wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

<https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/ashrae-reopening-schools.pdf>

<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/resources>

Did you know FRaBSA has a Linked In Group Page? Please reach out on Linked In to join the group or email Sue Farr sfarr@techsafety.com to ask her to send you a Linked In invite to join the group! We'll be posting upcoming meetings, events and

The screenshot displays the LinkedIn group page for the Front Range Biological Safety Association (FRaBSA). The group is an unlisted group with 28 members, including Jesse Palomino and 11 other connections. A post by Sue Farr, Business Development Manager at Technical Safety Services LLC, is visible, dated 1 month ago. The post announces that registration is open for a COVID-19 Webinar on Friday, April 24, 2020, from 12:00 to 1:30pm MDT. The webinar will feature a panel presentation on how COVID-19 is impacting their industry, field, and roles at University (CSU). The group's description states that FRaBSA is a group of professionals dedicated to the field of biosafety in the Rocky Mountain region, founded in 2009, and is an official affiliate of the American Biological Safety Association.

Letter from FRaBSA President

Dear FRaBSA Members and Friends,

We have had a very eventful year, to say the least. We had our Fall meeting in Fort Collins, at the National Wildlife Research Center November 8. We all celebrated our FRaBSA 10th Anniversary, with the speakers reflecting on the years since FRaBSA was organized, and the progress we have made as an ABSA affiliate.

Then COVID-19 hit in early 2020, and we had a lot of re-planning to do. Instead of our regular spring meeting in April, we had a Webinar regarding SRS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 April 24. Our Webinar was very well attended, and the comments were excellent. I have personally thanked our committees who planned the Webinar, our speakers, and our Communications Committee Chair, Cindy Norton. Cindy responded to all the inquiries and registrations, set up the platform so that our Webinar ran very smoothly, and sent Certificates of Attendance after the Webinar. We had over 400 registrants and 308 attendees. Please be sure to read Cindy's comments in this Newsletter regarding the Webinar.

We are in the final planning stages for our Summer meeting which will be Friday August 21. We have a very interesting meeting planned for you so please add it to your calendar and join us.

We are also busy planning for our Fall Symposium, which will be October 1, 2020. Be sure to watch for updates and plan to join us for this Webinar.

It has been almost a year since I was handed the reins as FRaBSA President, and it has been a really fast year. I have thoroughly enjoyed this year working closely with our Board and Committees. In my decades of working with organizations and committees, I can assure you all that I have never seen so many people working so hard for a common goal. Our FRaBSA Board and Committees are all hard-working groups, there are no "coasters" on any of these groups. Please continue to support your FRaBSA by volunteering for committee work, and volunteer for an office next election cycle.

Very sincerely, Bob Ellis



MEETING
SAVE THE DATE
SUMMER MEETING
VIRTUAL
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21
MORE DETAILS TO COME



SYMPOSIUM
SAVE THE DATE
VIRTUAL
THURSDAY, OCT 1
MORE DETAILS TO COME

REOCCUPYING BUILDINGS— PEOPLE PERSPECTIVE

- ⇒ Conduct a thorough hazard assessment of the workplace to identify potential workplace hazards that could increase risks for COVID-19 transmission.
- ⇒ Identify work and common areas where employees could have close contact (within 6 feet) with others — for example meeting rooms, break rooms, the cafeteria, locker rooms, check-in areas, waiting areas, and routes of entry and exit.
- ⇒ Include all employees in the workplace in communication plans — for example management, staff, utility employees, relief employees, janitorial staff, maintenance staff, and supervisory staff.
- ⇒ If contractors are employed in the workplace, develop plans to communicate with the contracting company regarding modifications to work processes and requirements for the contractors to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

- ⇒ Modify or adjust seats, furniture, and work stations to maintain social distancing of 6 feet between employees.
- ⇒ Install transparent shields or other physical barriers where possible to separate employees and visitors where social distancing is not an option.
- ⇒ Arrange reception or other communal seating area chairs by turning, draping (covering chair with tape or fabric so seats cannot be used), spacing, or removing chairs to maintain social distancing.
- ⇒ Use signs, tape marks, or other visual cues such as decals or colored tape on the floor, placed 6 feet apart, to indicate where to stand when physical barriers are not possible.
- ⇒ Replace high-touch communal items, such as coffee pots, water coolers, and bulk snacks, with alternatives such as pre-packaged, single-serving items.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS:

- ⇒ Actively encourage employees who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 to notify their supervisor and stay home.
- ⇒ Consider conducting daily in-person or virtual health checks (e.g., symptoms and/or temperature screening) of employees before they enter the work site.
- ⇒ Stagger shifts, start times, and break times as feasible to reduce the density of employees in common areas such as screening areas, break rooms, and locker rooms.
- ⇒ Consider posting signs in parking areas and entrances that ask guests and visitors to phone from their cars to inform the administration or security when they reach the facility.
- ⇒ Consider posting signs in parking areas and entrances that ask guests and visitors to wear cloth face coverings if possible, to not enter the building if they are sick, and to stay 6 feet away from employees, if possible. (cont. on page 6)

REOCCUPYING BUILDINGS— PEOPLE PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

- ⇒ Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces
- ⇒ Provide employees adequate time to wash their hands and access to soap, clean water, and single use paper towels.
- ⇒ Prohibit handshaking, hugs, and fist bumps.
- ⇒ Limit use and occupancy of elevators to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- ⇒ Encourage the use of outdoor seating areas and social distancing for any small group activities such as lunches, breaks, and meetings.
- ⇒ Post signs and reminders at entrances and in strategic places providing instruction on hand hygiene, COVID-19 symptoms, and cough and sneeze etiquette. This should include signs for non-English speakers, as needed.
- ⇒ Use no-touch waste receptacles when possible.
- ⇒ Remind employees to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ⇒ Employees should wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth in all areas of the business.

Taken from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/office-buildings.html>



1 OCTOBER 2020 ■ 8-5PM

ONLINE

BIOSAFETY SYMPOSIUM

More detail to come on:

- CM Points
- Speakers/Topics
- Sponsor/Vendor Opportunities
- Registration Options: Web Access



Excerpt from [Is COVID-19 Changing the Healthcare Industry?](#) appeared first on [Air Filters for Clean Air](#).

WHY IS AIR FILTRATION SO IMPORTANT DURING COVID-19?

Many people don't realize it, but air filtration plays a crucial role in effective medical care. Now, that's even more true than ever. The [highly communicable nature of SARS-CoV2](#) through respiratory droplets makes efficient air filtration solutions even more important.

Elective surgeries may have been postponed for the duration of the pandemic, but the need for normal hospital and emergency care hasn't ceased. Babies are still being born, accidents are still occurring, and other illnesses still remain at large. Ineffective air filtration in hospitals puts these non-COVID-19 patients at great risk. "We're seeing hospitals and networks upgrade from MERV-14A filters to MERV-16A filters in an attempt to reduce infection rates and ultimately save lives," observes Dave Blackwell, Camfil USA's Director of Healthcare.

WHAT DOES MERV MEAN?

MERV, or [Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value](#), is a test standard developed by the ASHRAE 52.2 committee and defines the particle capture efficiency of a filter at its minimum performance level. To label a filter with a MERV value, manufacturers are required to test their filters against the entire standard which evaluates performance on three size ranges of particles. Filter manufacturers should make their testing reports available upon request.

To read the [full article](#)

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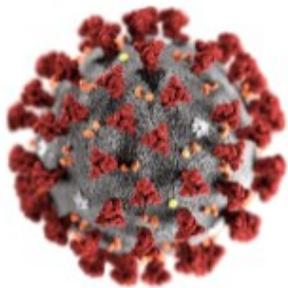
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Sue Farr, Kim Dazey



**SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19
TOOLBOX**

Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Information compiled by
ABSA International from
organizations, government
agencies, and news outlets.

<https://absa.org/covid19toolbox/>

ABSA INTERNATIONAL
The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity

63rd Annual Biosafety and Biosecurity Conference
JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge
Phoenix, Arizona
October 31 - November 5, 2020

Conference Highlights

- Three full days of intensive professional development courses to educate and inspire
- Three full days of state-of-the-art keynotes, papers, and panels highlighting best practices and hands-on skills crucial for today's biosafety and biosecurity professionals
- Exhibits showcasing the latest in laboratory biosafety and biosecurity products and services
- Invaluable networking opportunities to share and learn from other biosafety and biosecurity professionals

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