



Indoor Air Management of Airborne Pathogens: Back to School

A Virtual Workshop: The Second Workshop in a Series

September 14th, 2022 12:00-3:00pm EDT

The Environmental Health Matters Initiative (EHMI) of the National Academies invites you to register for the second workshop in our three-part series on Indoor Air Management of Airborne Pathogens building upon the 2020 workshop on the airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2. These workshops will explore strategies needed for airborne disease control and risk reduction in enclosed places by drawing on accumulated community and institutional knowledge, on-the-ground observations of indoor environments management during the pandemic, and novel and promising scientific discoveries.

For this second workshop, participants will review the state of knowledge concerning school buildings to reduce transmission of airborne pathogens, highlighting progress made since 2020 and identifying critical research, implementation, and regulatory gaps. Participants will also discuss their lived experiences during the pandemic through case studies, and engage around key themes in a moderated panel discussion. Finally, participants will help identify promising practices to be adopted at different levels to make access to education equitable and safe. In addition to experts from a variety of disciplines and sectors involved in the first workshop, this second workshop will also include participants who worked directly with local communities and school districts during the pandemic. These participants will bring in the discussion on-the-ground experience, solutions adopted, and other areas for improvement at the local level.

Wednesday, September 14th

(All times in U.S. Eastern Time)

12:00pm **Welcome and Meeting Overview**

Linsey Marr, Virginia Tech

Jonathan Samet, Colorado School of Public Health

12:15pm **Session 1: Review the state of knowledge concerning research regarding school building performance and management to reduce transmission of airborne pathogens equitably**

- *What infrastructure-related interventions have been shown to be effective at reducing transmission in schools?*
- *What impact would interventions have on other common infections in schools?*
- *What have schools done to improve indoor air management since 2020?*
- *What are the practical considerations with implementing technology solutions (CO2, air cleaners, etc.)?*
- *How can we improve indoor air management in schools equitably?*

Speakers: Catherine Noakes, University of Leeds

Paula Olsiewski, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Julia Raifman, Boston University School of Public Health

Panelists: Joseph Allen, Harvard University

Elliot Gall, Portland State University

Timothy Unruh, National Association of Energy Service Companies

1:00pm **Session 2: Case studies - On-the-ground experience**

Shared experience through a set of case studies in different geographic locations, where participants worked directly with local communities and school districts during the pandemic. These participants will discuss their experience balancing the safety of the students and teachers, while navigating external expectations, imposed policies, and technologies with varying levels of proven efficacies.

Speakers: **Case Study #1: Rhode Island**

Joseph Da Silva, Rhode Island Department of Education

Case Study #2: Denver Public Schools

Mark Hernandez, University of Colorado Boulder

Case Study #3: Florida Schools

Chang-Yu Wu, University of Florida

Case Study #4: National School COVID-19 Prevention Study – Center for Disease Control

Sanjana Pampati, Center for Disease Control

1:50pm ***Break***

1:55pm **Session 3: Implementation - Local, State, and Federal roles**

The goal of this panel would be to understand how to synchronize the different levels of decision-makers and what the appropriate roles are for each, in addition to identifying gaps that exist.

- *What are the barriers to implementing best practices more widely, besides funding?*
- *What do we need to do to move the needle? Who would do it?*
- *What are the most critical lessons you have learned these past two years that can translate to actions in the future?*
- *If a school can do only one thing to improve building performance, what should it be? Who should be in charge of doing this?*

Panelists: Hannah Carter, Center for Green Schools at the US Green Building Council

William Cooper, Milford School District SAU 40

Joel Solomon, National Education Association

Mandy Cohen, Aledade Care Solutions

Helen Jenkins, Boston University

Mary Wall, Executive Office of the President

William Bahnfleth, The Pennsylvania State University

Tracy Enger, Environmental Protection Agency

2:50pm Wrap-up - Key learning from the discussion

Linsey Marr, Virginia Tech

Jonathan Samet, Colorado School of Public Health

3:00pm Adjourn