**P22-23/057**

**Motion proposed forWales HESC**

HESC notes that a record number of staff are on long term sickness[[1]](#footnote-1) [[2]](#footnote-2).

HESC Further notes that Welsh Government guidance is that staff infected with COVID should avoid contact with clinically vulnerable people for a period of at least 10 days[[3]](#footnote-3).

HESC further notes that Welsh Government *“would like to have 30% of Welsh workers working at or near to home on a regular basis”[[4]](#footnote-4)*.

HESC also notes that COVID represents a very real and serious risk to all staff, not only clinically vulnerable staff, through repeat infections[[5]](#footnote-5)

HESC notes that whilst it is common to discuss CO2 levels, effective safety comes from making air as close to outdoor air as possible, with increased air changes being a critical factor[[6]](#footnote-6)

We therefore propose a working group of HESC to bring forward proposals on

* Access to clean air as a right
* Defining clean air. Some European parliaments work on 800 ppm CO2 levels, however there is evidence that air quality less than 600 ppm is detrimental. Air changes per hour and steps to achieve as near outdoor air as possible, should be the main focus of activity.
* Proposals on support, briefing packs and campaigns for local branches
* Where possible gather evidence and data on practice at HE institutions on Health and Safety (w.r.t clean air). E.g. failure to provide CO2 monitors, or provide Risk Assessments with COVID as a risk factor.

***Further Information***

CDC (US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) states there should be a minimum rate of 5 ACH.  [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fventilation.html&data=05%7C01%7CAstonM%40cardiff.ac.uk%7Cfdce47af3f7144ecc3b108db585a3f92%7Cbdb74b3095684856bdbf06759778fcbc%7C1%7C0%7C638200917454793431%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QF8sqsocrbSuaJMuHf0TYMwjFy0p2OUA2pWjDv0e2vg%3D&reserved=0).  They also state that HVAC (ventilation, heating and air conditioning) systems should use outdoor (not recycled) air.  If outside ventilation alone cannot meet the 5 ACH standard, it should be augmented with air filtration (HEPA).

ASHRAE standard 241, an international standard for ventilation has been updated with a draft proposal setting an even higher level of ventilation in order to mitigate infection rates.: 20 l/s per person (or 40 cubic feet per minute (CFM)) for offices, 25 l/s (50 CFM) for educational establishments, and up to 90 l/s for patient treatment areas [https://osr.ashrae.org/Online-Comment-Database/ShowDoc2/Table/DocumentAttachments/FileName/4071-ASHRAE%20Standard%20241P%20Advisory%20Public%20Review.pdf/download/false](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fosr.ashrae.org%2FOnline-Comment-Database%2FShowDoc2%2FTable%2FDocumentAttachments%2FFileName%2F4071-ASHRAE%2520Standard%2520241P%2520Advisory%2520Public%2520Review.pdf%2Fdownload%2Ffalse&data=05%7C01%7CAstonM%40cardiff.ac.uk%7Cfdce47af3f7144ecc3b108db585a3f92%7Cbdb74b3095684856bdbf06759778fcbc%7C1%7C0%7C638200917454793431%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=W%2FZSHHOLi3sMSOaNNegs3d8BwHjeibznRITsvtcBpq4%3D&reserved=0)

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/business/unemployment-statistics-sickness-ons-b2339882.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/economicinactivity/datasets/economicinactivitybyreasonseasonallyadjustedinac01sa> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.gov.wales/guidance-people-symptoms-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.gov.wales/remote-working-policy> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/do-repeat-covid-infections-increase-the-risk-of-severe-disease-or-long-covid/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ef3652ab722df11fcb2ba5d/t/637740d40f35a9699a7fb05f/1668759764821/Lancet+Covid+Commission+TF+Report+Nov+2022.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)