ASHRAE has been developing and disseminating guidance for control of airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 since April 2020. At the time that the Epidemic Task Force began its work, WHO and CDC both were firm in asserting that transmission was by droplet and fomite modes, not airborne/aerosol. Consequently ASHRAE issued a statement that:

"Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through the air is sufficiently likely that airborne exposure to the virus should be controlled. Changes to building operations, including the operation of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems, can reduce airborne exposures."

Last week, that statement was modified to say unequivocally:

"Airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is significant and should be controlled. Changes to building operations, including the operation of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems, can reduce airborne exposures."

This perhaps seems like a small step, but we felt it is important to leave no doubt about our position given the muted support for ventilation and filtration as important tools in the effort to stop the pandemic from some organizations that should be leading.

Glen Bergman

President

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