



# Session Summary

Session 8 • July 29, 2021

## Improving Ventilation for Healthier Learning Environments

Presenters: Tom St. Louis and Meg Harvey, CT Department of Public Health

Watch Session 8

### Identify qualified, trusted, and ideally local/regional professionals to supplement facilities staff.

Consult with your local building official and your current facilities managers to find a local certified Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) professional with experience in large central HVAC systems and school building environments, who can provide technical expertise to augment the knowledge base of your current facilities staff, assist with the inspection and repair or installation of systems, and be available to respond in case of emergencies.

Tools: [CT Department of Consumer Protection – HVAC Licensure](#)

### Commission your building mechanical ventilation systems prior to the start of the school year.

Hiring a mechanical engineering firm (ideally a local firm) with a proven track record of evaluating, adjusting, and balancing ventilations systems (particularly in school buildings) to commission your systems will provide you with recommendations on how to optimize the capabilities of your systems for airflow, filtration, and fresh air intake with the goal of striving toward meeting standards set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE 62.1).

Tools: [ASHRAE 62.1 Standards Commissioning Guidance](#), [CT Ventilation Guidance for Schools](#)

### Conduct repairs and improvements to existing mechanical ventilation systems.

The commissioning process may identify needed repairs or improvements that are recommended for your mechanical ventilation systems.