

Improving Ventilation and Air Quality During the Pandemic: Self-Reported LeadingAge Kansas Member Examples

For peer sharing purposes only

If you would like to share what your organization has done to improve ventilation and air quality email a brief description to debra@leadingagekansas.org and we will add it to our next version of this document.

Thank you.

- We installed 28 air purification units including (iWaves @ \$20k <https://www.iwaveair.com/products/iwave-r> and 4 ERV's @ \$60k https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy_recovery_ventilation to bring in fresh air, heats it up and distributes in building. IWaves attracts virus and bacteria and pulls the bad air to the electromagnetic light. We used a local company, but also had Glassman company look into our system. Economizers can be put on exiting units to bring in fresh air, the main concern is how to heat up that cold fresh air. Fresh air helps keep a facility clean.
- We bought a 360 Degree Omni-Directional UVC Sanitation Cart with wheels. Here is the website. <https://www.larsonelectronics.com/category/11557/360-degree-omni-directional-uv-c-sanitation-carts> There are quite a few options someone could choose from depending on their needs. Our heating and cooling system is a water system and there is nothing much we can do to have cleaner air. Those facilities with a new system may be able to do something to get better clean air.
- I know of one community that closed in one of their porches on the east end of the building. A construction crew closed it in, installed two different air handler units and a wall in the middle for family/resident visitations.
- We have installed air ionization/purifier systems in all of our HVAC systems. We also have portable systems that we have set up throughout the high traffic areas and in our isolation unit.
- We first looked at UV lighting options and did obtain a portable unit to test at one of our locations. We moved away from that concept due to potential harm for human exposure and the ongoing maintenance/cost of a UV system. Now we are installing installing NPBI (needle point bipolar ionization) plasma units directly on the HVAC systems, which thus far is showing positive results. NBPI with zero (or near zero) ozone can be installed quickly and is relatively inexpensive (\$250 - \$600/unit plus installation when using an outside contractor.) Contractor pricing for installation ranged from \$50 to \$1,200/unit. (Some contractors take advantage of the COVID-19 situation to increase pricing.) We purchased units from GPS (Global Plasma Solutions) <https://globalplasmasolutions.com> and Nu-Calgon,

<https://www.nucalgon.com/products/iwave-air-purifiers/>. These sites can better explain how NPBI works against airborne virus, mold, mildew and the other benefits with product. BPS units were purchased through our licensed HVAC staff and the Nu-Calgon (iWave) products were purchased on Amazon. There a lot of HVAC companies that are NOT familiar with NPBI and therefore either misquote (inflate) product costs, or they tack on excessive costs for labor. Literally, most of these items take 10-15 minutes to install. Knowing this we have been able to negotiate purchase and installation costs substantially.

- We bought a negative air machine to have in the event we have a COVID case.
- We added portable air purifiers with UV lights in the hallways and in rooms. We purchased these through Amazon and you can get industry strength from Medline. We were looking for anyway to move air in small areas that have poor circulation.