

The District continues to work hard to ensure that it continues to do all that it can to reduce any possible airborne concentration of Covid19. With this in mind the following strategies are being employed:

- 1.Improve filtration / treatment of air**
- 2.Increase outdoor (fresh) air delivered to rooms**

With this in mind the district is upgrading our HVAC systems so that we are moving from MERV 8 filters to MERV 13 filters. What is a MERV? - MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. It's an acronym created by ASHRAE to provide a scale showing the effectiveness of filters at removing particles of different sizes. The typical filters that we would use in normal operation are a MERV 8. These 8 filters will collect particles as small as 3 microns, which is an excellent choice for everyday operation. The MERV 13 filter can collect particles as small as 0.3microns and are usually reserved to be employed in super clean environments such as medical facilities.

In regard to building temperature the district is setting our systems to maintain at a minimum temperature of 19C° in the schools for the coming months. This is being done in conjunction with allowing as much fresh air as possible into the buildings. By allowing more fresh air into our schools we will be reducing the amount of air that gets recirculated through the buildings. Any air that does get recirculated will be going through the MERV 13 filters.

We need to understand that by increasing the fresh air and adding the MERV 13 filters we are asking our heating systems to perform slightly outside of their original design. This will result in higher costs to run the systems and it will also affect our ability to have as much control over the system as we typically would. We will not be able to make slight temperature changes to suit individual preferences.

The school temperature will be set at 19C° which is not exactly cold but it will not be what we are used to which is typically 20C° - 22C°.

Thanks for your understanding regarding the slightly cooler temperatures. Please remind your children to bundle up when they come to school!

**Lizanne Chicanot
Principal
Parkland Secondary School**