

COVID-19 HVAC FAQs

Marriott International has superior maintenance programs for our hotels and has always had a focus on the health and wellbeing of our guests and associates in our hotels which includes indoor air quality. At the beginning of the crisis we quickly aligned with guidance from the CDC, WHO and other credible organizations such as ASHRAE to adjust our practices to mitigate the impact of SARS-CoV-2.

Hotel heating and air conditioning systems are designed to meet guest comfort and provide high air quality as defined by Marriott standards and local code requirements. Marriott has increased outdoor air dilution and improved filtration where possible while maintaining the temperature and relative humidity levels needed for guest comfort. Our systems use high quality MERV-8 or better, up to MERV-13, filters which provide good particle filtration and allow proper airflow which helps air dilution. It is important to note that in our guestrooms the heating and air conditioning systems are designed so air does not pass from one room to another. Each room is equipped with its own circulation system.

Marriott continues to engage top scientists, engineers, and health professionals in order to evaluate our programs and strategies. Based upon the best, most recent research and studies, further Commitment to Clean protocols adjustments are recommended.

1. How do hotels filter air? What type of air filters / filtration systems are used?

Our hotels use high quality MERV-8 or better filters which provide good particle filtration and allow proper airflow which helps air dilution in keeping with the ASHREA and CDC guidance. It is important to note that in our guestrooms the air conditioning systems are designed so air does not pass room to room, each room has its own circulation system.

2. Can hotel air filtration systems filter out viral particles such as COVID-19? Are they hospital grade?

Hotel heating and air conditioning systems are designed differently than hospitals. Hotel systems are designed to meet guest comfort and provide high air quality as defined by Marriott standards and local code requirements.

3. Have hotels changed / upgraded air filtration for the pandemic?

Marriott has increased outdoor air dilution and improved filtration where possible while maintaining the temperature and relative humidity levels needed for guest comfort. Portable air purification units are being utilized in strategic locations.

4. How frequently is air exchanged? How much fresh air is included?

Many factors determine the frequency of air changes and the amount of fresh air included. These include the outside temperature, humidity and pollution levels. Our hotels are designed to meet code requirements and provide quality air. During the pandemic we have increased the fresh air intake in keeping with ASHREA and CDC guidelines.

5. Is there consistency in quality of air filtration throughout hotel spaces, i.e. public space, meeting rooms, guestrooms, etc.?

Yes, our hotels use high quality MERV-8 or better filters which provide good particle filtration and allow proper airflow which helps air dilution in keeping with the ASHREA and CDC guidance. It is important to note that in our guestrooms the air conditioning systems are designed so air does not pass room to room, each room has its own circulation system.

6. Are air filtration standards dictated through MI policy? Do standards exist for both managed and franchised hotels?

Marriott has detailed indoor air quality guidelines for our hotels both in design and operations standards which meet or exceed local codes.

- 7. Is hotel ventilation, both guest room and guest occupied space, provided in a manner consistent the current ASHRAE Standard 62.1 (or its equivalent international, regional or local standard) or other equivalent standards? If yes, explain how guest room ventilation system design, operation and maintenance achieves this objective.**

Marriott has superior maintenance programs for our hotels and have always had a focus on the health and wellbeing of our guests and associates in our hotels which includes indoor air quality. Our hotels use high quality MERV-8 or better filters which provide good particle filtration and allow proper airflow which helps air dilution. It is important to note that in our guestrooms the air conditioning systems are designed so air does not pass room to room, each room has its own circulation system. All Marriott Brands globally are required at a minimum to comply with ASHRAE 62.1 - 2019 for both occupant density and outdoor air quantities per person and per SF.

- 8. Notwithstanding hotel compliance with ASHRAE Standard 62.1 or other equivalent standards, has direct control ventilation systems (DCV) using CO2 and/or other guest room occupancy sensors or manual procedures been modified to perform post-occupancy (3-hour) and pre-occupancy (3-hour) guest room ventilation simultaneous with operation room air relief systems?**

Many factors determine the frequency of air changes and the amount of fresh air included. These include the outside temperature, humidity and pollution levels. Our hotels are designed to meet code requirements and provide quality air. During the pandemic we have increased the fresh air intake in keeping with ASHREA and CDC guidelines. Public spaces are designed to these standards. The design of a particular hotel will determine when and where they are deployed. Where deployed, occupancy based controls have be deactivated.

- 9. Are hotel common areas and guest rooms fitted with high efficiency air filters with a rating of MERV 13 (or its equivalent international, regional or local standard) or greater? If not, explain what method is used to remove infectious bioaerosols and state demonstrated removal efficiency for particle size classifications down to 1 micron aerodynamic diameter.**

Hotel HVAC and filtration systems are designed to meet guest comfort and provide high air quality as defined by Marriott standards and local code requirements. Our hotels use high quality MERV-8 or better filters which provide good particle filtration and allow proper airflow which helps air dilution in keeping with the ASHREA and CDC guidance. MERV-8 or better, up to MERV-13 are utilized as system capabilities allow. It is important to note that in our guestrooms the air conditioning systems are designed so air does not pass room to room, each room has its own circulation system. Marriott has increased outdoor air dilution and improved filtration where possible while maintaining the temperature and relative humidity levels needed for guest comfort. Portable air purification units are being utilized in strategic locations.

10. Is hotel ventilation, both guest room and guest occupied space, supplemented by additional ventilation as determined by an EHS (environmental health and safety) professional and as described in ASHRAE Standard 62.1 (or its equivalent international, regional or local standard) "addendum or equivalent that addresses the presence of unusual sources (COVID-19 pandemic)?

Marriott has detailed indoor air quality guidelines for our hotels both in design and operations standards which meet or exceed local codes. Marriott has increased outdoor air dilution and improved filtration where possible while maintaining the temperature and relative humidity levels needed for guest comfort. Portable air purification units are being utilized in strategic locations. It is important to note that in our guestrooms the air conditioning systems are designed so air does not pass room to room, each room has its own circulation system. During the pandemic, Marriott has actively consulted with leading industry experts, researchers, vendors and ASHREA to develop operating guidelines and deploy solutions to mitigate the risk of airborne transmission.