



## CDC Says It's Airborne: What Schools Can Do Now to Boost Ventilation and IAQ

Free WEBINAR

Thursday, June 24, 2021, 1:00 - 2:15pm ET

Join us for a presentation, panel discussion, and open Q&A on the critical need for better school indoor air/ventilation for the coming school year. There are do's and don'ts and easy steps and harder steps to ensure clean air in school.

The Presenter will share the new Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Health Security report on the multiple options available to improve ventilation and reduce the viral load indoors. She will also touch on research on viral transmission and current ventilation guidelines. A cost analysis comparing better ventilation to enhanced cleaning is part of the report. CDC announced the pandemic was airborne on May 7 and no longer recommends deep cleaning.

Experienced panelists will offer perspectives on the issues, followed by an open Q&A session

### Presenter:



**Paula Olsiewski**, PhD, Contributing Scholar,  
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security,  
Bloomberg School of Public Health

### Moderator:

**Aaron Jobson**, BA, AIA, Principal, Quattrocchi Kwok Architects &  
CHPS Board of Directors

### Panelists:

**Sharie Lewis**, CPA, Director of Business Services and Operations  
for Parkrose School District (OR), representing Association of School  
Business Officials-International

**Joel Solomon**, Senior Policy Analyst, National Education  
Association

**Kenneth Wertz**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Facilities  
Administrators Association

**Kelly Trautner**, Senior Director, Health Issues, American Federation  
of Teachers

Donations to Healthy Schools Network and CHPS, both 501(c)(3) organizations, are welcomed.

<http://healthyschools.org> ~~ <https://chps.net>

# CDC Says It's Airborne: What Schools Can Do to Boost Ventilation & IAQ

[View the Webinar Here](#)

[View the Slide Presentation Here](#)

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Webinar: June 24, 1-2:15 ET

### AGENDA & SPEAKERS

1:00 – Welcome & Speaker Introduction	Claire Barnett, Healthy Schools Network
1:05 – Presentation	Paula Olsiewski, Johns Hopkins
1:35 – Panel Introductions & Moderator Questions	Aaron Jobson, QKA & CHPS Board of Directors
1:40 – Panel Response & Questions	Sharie Lewis, ASBO; Joel Solomon, NEA; Ken Wertz, MFAA; Kelly Trautner, AFT
2:00 – Open Q&A	
2:15 – Closing	Elisabeth Krautscheid, CHPS

### Links from Presentation

Johns Hopkins info:

<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/publications/school-ventilation>

<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-resources/tips-to-improve-home-vent.html>

Johns Hopkins Webinar:

<https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/events/2021-Indoor-Air-K-12-Schools/>

Recorded webinar: <https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/events/2021-Indoor-Air-K-12-Schools/webinar.html>

CARB Certified Air Cleaning Devices:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/list-carb-certified-air-cleaning-devices>

## WHAT THE PANELISTS SAID AFTER

**Aaron Jobson, Principal / President, QKA**

*Here are my two biggest takeaways:*

- 1. Addressing IAQ and ventilation issues in schools and classrooms is complex. There are no one size fits all solutions, and each project needs to be carefully examined to find the best solutions and avoid unforeseen complications.*
- 2. It's critical to educate all stakeholders, teachers, students, parents, administrators, etc., on how important healthy indoor air quality is to student and teacher wellness and academic success. Building that understanding and support will be critical to generate the funding necessary to tackle the upgrades our critical school infrastructure needs.*

**Kenneth Wertz, Executive Director, MFAA**

*Takeaways:*

1. *Nice to find another source recommending folks stay away from bi-polar/plasma/others as that is a hot button right now. We typically go with "buyer beware" and make sure systems will do no harm as thousands of districts spent CARES funds on various technologies. Hopefully, they have deemed this supporting tech as part of their response in concert with their local health officials and lengthy research and 3rd party certification.*
2. *Sharie and I are kindred spirits and have similar concerns and views. Which is always great meeting a fellow public building geek! The concept of one size fits all never works. Too many variables, local politics, size, funding, equity, geography, and on. I've been on so many discussions at this point "Post Covid" that this message seems to escape the conversation.*
3. *Conversation was helpful but needs to continue and target annual operations and sustainable predictive/preventive maintenance with adequate funding. Blessing in disguise from COVID is that people are talking about IAQ right now, that will fade away as a hot button as the public's memory for things is limited and moves to the next big thing... which unfortunately will put us right back to where we were pre-pandemic as underfunded reactive organizations.*

**Joel Solomon, Senior Policy Analyst, National Education Association**

*It is abundantly clear at this stage of the pandemic that improving indoor air quality in schools must be a priority, and it is equally clear that only by demystifying ventilation, filtration and, more broadly, indoor air quality will we be able to ensure that the right measures are put in place to both protect students and educators from the virus that causes COVID-19 and to build lasting awareness and solutions to ensure better indoor air quality long into the future.*

**Kelly Trautner, Senior Director for Health Issues, American Federation of Teachers**

*The most important takeaway for me is the growing awareness of the action needed to address indoor air quality in school buildings, but the continued lack of knowing among districts in where to start to address it.*

**Sharie Lewis, CPA, Director of Business Services & Operations / CFO, Parkrose School District, OR  
Representing Association of School Business Officials**

*I think my biggest takeaway or my concern is that most people need to understand the amount of education and knowledge that needs to go into making a school system work and operate efficiently. Also another concern is that one methodology will not fit every school system and it is essential that we work together to educate and be transparent about what we are trying to achieve. Then remember the old phrase "Rome was not built in a day" - this also applies to schools so change cannot be done in a day or a few short weeks.*

## SPEAKER BIOS

**Paula Olsiewski, PhD**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Health Security, Contributing Scholar: <https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-people/olsiewski/>

**Sharie Lewis, CPA** is the Director of Business Services & Operations for Parkrose School District in Portland, OR. Sharie has been with the District since July 2015. Prior to her employment with the District, she worked for Portland Public Schools for 10 + years as Director of Accounting & Payroll. She is a graduate of the University of Memphis, and her hobbies are spending time with her family and playing sports. During her down time she spends time reading federal regulations for fun.

**Joel Solomon** has served for 16 years as a senior policy analyst in the National Education Association's Collective Bargaining and Member Advocacy Department. He now leads the Association's cross-departmental safety and health COVID-19 response team, covering topics including indoor air quality in schools.

**Ken Wertz** is the Executive Director for the Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association (MFAA) and the former Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Sharon Public Schools in Sharon, MA. He also serves on the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) Designer Selection Panel and on the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Reopening Site Support Team.

**Kelly Trautner** is Senior Director for Health Issues with the American Federation of Teachers. In her role she serves as a senior advisor to AFT President Randi Weingarten on all issues involving health and healthcare. She has served the AFT as the lead staff person in the union's COVID-19 response and directs the union's health and safety program, staffed by technical experts who support the AFT's state and local affiliates nationwide. As the largest union in the AFL-CIO, the AFT has been an active participant and powerful influencer in the labor movement's work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **SUGGESTIED RESOURCES FROM PANELISTS, HOSTS, SPEAKERS, AND ATTENDEES**

[Reopening Schools and Universities](#), *The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)*

[List of CARB-Certified Air Cleaning Devices](#), *California Air Resources Board*

[CHPS Knowledge Library](#), *Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS)*

[Disinfecting & Schools](#), *Panel Discussion on August 28, 2020, Healthy Schools Network*

[Guide to Health & Safety Committees](#), *Healthy Schools Network*

[Parent's Guide to School Indoor Air Quality](#), *Healthy Schools Network*

[A National Conversation on Indoor Air & K-12 Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), *Webinar on February 23, 2021, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

[School Ventilation: A Vital Tool to Reduce COVID-19 Spread](#), *Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

[The Importance of Filtration in Schools](#), *Video, UC Davis*

[Navigating the Landscape of Air Cleaning Technologies for COVID-19](#), *Webinar on June 16, 2021, US EPA*

[Creating Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools](#), *US EPA*