



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Memo – Air Purifier Distribution Plan

To: Principals

Date: August 31, 2023

The District has begun to receive the 3,500 Medify air purifiers and a five-year supply of filter replacements from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). These Medify air purifiers will be distributed to 28 of our schools with classrooms that are on the lower end of our *air changes per hour* (ACH) measurements. Additional units can be provided upon request to all schools.

All PPS schools already have healthy air quality

Air quality in all PPS schools is safe. We follow consensus advice of public health experts to meet all indoor air quality regulations. PPS also partners with top air quality experts to ensure we meet industry best practices. In 2021, an independent consulting firm, [PBS Engineering and Environmental](#) completed air quality assessments at all PPS schools and determined indoor air quality is good at all PPS schools. Copies of these reports can be found on the Environmental Health & Safety [website](#).

Airflow is one component of indoor air quality

One component of indoor air quality is airflow, often measured as **Air Changes per Hour (ACH)**. Airflow changes throughout the day and is based on a number of variables. Please note - there is no common standard for how to measure airflow. To gather airflow information about each PPS school, the district partnered with [Ameresco](#) to complete *one point in time testing* during the 2021 and 2022 school year. This information gives us a generalized sense of which schools have generally higher ACH and which ones are lower. These ACH reports can be found on the Environmental Health & Safety [website](#).

The District is providing additional air purifiers to specific school classrooms

While there is no standard for airflow in schools, the Oregon Health Authority [recommends 3 to 6 air changes per hour](#). Currently all PPS classrooms are supplied with one portable air purifier. Our review of the ACH data shows that at 68 schools, classrooms average more than 6 ACH (when the portable air purifier is turned on) while 28 schools' classrooms fall below that average. We are providing one additional unit for each classroom in those 28 schools with the understanding some schools or spaces may also want additional airflow.

Additional air purifiers can be provided upon request to all schools

The site administrator may request additional units by emailing tenbysk@pps.net. Please gather the entire request amount for your school before you submit your request so we only deliver to your school once.

The 28 schools that will be receiving additional units are:

1. Arleta
2. Astor
3. Atkinson
4. Beach
5. Boise-Eliot
6. Bridger
7. Buckman
8. Clark
9. East Sylvan
10. Edwards
11. Glencoe
12. Hosford
13. King
14. KairosPDX
15. Laurelhurst
16. Lee
17. Lent
18. Rieke
19. Sabin
20. Sellwood
21. Skyline
22. Sunnyside
23. Terwilliger
24. Vestal
25. West Sylvan
26. Winterhaven
27. Woodlawn
28. Woodstock

While air quality in all PPS schools remains safe, the District is committed to providing additional improvement opportunities. As schools or individual air handling systems are modernized in the upcoming years, the District will reassess with an eye to lowering energy use and benefiting the PPS climate policy efforts.

Air Purifier Maintenance

The District has purchased two (2) different types of air purifiers. The first is the Intellipure Ultrafine 468 unit, and the second is the MedifyAir MA112 unit. Both units require regular cleaning and

maintenance. Both the user of the unit and Facilities staff have a part to play in keeping the units running smoothly and effectively.

The **user** of the unit is expected to do the following:

- Visually inspect the unit to determine if one of the lights are illuminated indicating a filter change is necessary.
- Promptly notify the custodian if one of the trouble lights is illuminated. This may indicate a filter change or a pre-filter cleaning is necessary.
- Turn off the unit when leaving the room for an extended period of time. This is very important as it will extend the filter life.
- Promptly notify the custodian if the unit stops working or is having any operational issues.

The **Custodial Staff** is expected to do the following:

- Vacuum to remove any excess dirt/dust build-up on the pre-filters on an as needed basis.
- Replace the pre-filters, when necessary in the Intellipure units.
- Promptly notify the FOM of any units that have stopped working or are having operational issues.

FAQ

1. When will the new units be available?

A: The new units began arriving in July and will be distributed after classes have resumed in September for the first 28 schools. The site administrator may request additional units by emailing tenbysk@pps.net.

2. How often are filters replaced in the portable units?

A: Pre-Carbon Filters to be replaced every 6 months - HEPA Filter replaced every 12 months.

3. How often are the filters replaced?

A: Both units will have the filters replaced as required by the manufacturer on a yearly basis starting October 2023 - February 2024. This will take place in the same months each year. The main HEPA filter in each type of unit is required to be changed once every 12 months. An independent contractor will be hired to go through each school in the evenings and clean, inspect, and replace all filters in each unit. Each unit will have a sticker showing the date filter was changed.

4. What is the process when the red lights illuminate?

A: Please let your head custodian know if lights are illuminated. The head custodian can contact their FOM or Jon Athey (jathey@pps.net) if they need support.

Resources

- [PFAC1001 HVAC and Air Purifier Information](#) (Pepper Course)