GVSU Building HVAC System Protocol

for Campus Reopening

GVSU is taking the best from ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) for its position on operating buildings to mitigate against COVID 19. ASHRAE provides the industry standard when it comes to HVAC design and for Building Code protocols. GVSU is also following CDC advice and OSHA Guidelines.

Various strategies have been found to be effective at controlling pathogen transmission, including optimized airflow patterns, directional airflow, zone pressurization, dilution ventilation, in-room air-cleaning systems, general exhaust ventilation, personalized ventilation, local exhaust ventilation at the source, central system filtration and controlling indoor temperature and relative humidity.

GVSU is following the ASHRAE recommendations below:

1. Building flush out for 4 hours prior to occupants returning.

1. Increased ventilation, meaning longer run times of outside air will be incorporated when it meets temperature and RH criteria.
2. Inspection of outside air intakes and cleaned.
3. Inspection of heating and cooling coils and cleaned.
4. Air filters are being inspected and replaced frequently.
5. Ductwork, including supply and return grilles to be inspected and cleaned.
6. HVAC controls, including sensors, t-stats and alarms will be closely monitored and readily fixed or troubleshooted if found inoperable or notified. Check that the devices and sensors are within an acceptable calibration for controlling space comfort and ventilation.
7. Check overall building pressure to make sure it is positive. Do the same for any critical interior spaces.
8. Run the HVAC system on minimum outside air when unoccupied.
9. Regarding UVGI, ASHRAE published a position paper on Filtration and Air Cleaning (2018) and does not make a recommendation for or against the use of UV energy systems for minimizing the risks from infectious aerosols. UVGI is known for its safety implications that exposure to the light can cause surface damage to skin and especially the eyes. It can also damage nearby materials exposed to the light.