

VENTILATION IN SCHOOL DISTRICT #81 BUILDINGS

The ventilation systems in School District #81 (Fort Nelson) are regulated in all of our buildings through direct digital controls (DDC), providing maximum allowable air exchanges, depending on the outside air temperature. The systems are active from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily Monday to Friday and can be overridden if there are special activities happening in a school in the evenings or on the weekends.

Individual classrooms have independent climate control. Therefore, if one furnace goes out the school is impacted minimally.

With the provision of Federal Covid Funds in 2021 our district researched and purchased the latest ventilation technology called Global Plasma Solutions (GPS) for all school district buildings. The GPS Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization (NBMI) technology reduces airborne particles through agglomeration. The ions attach to the airborne particles. The particles are subsequently attracted to one another, effectively increasing mass and size that is easily captured by the air filtration system. During the GPS cleaning process, the NBMI technology attacks and kills viruses, mold spores, and bacteria, leaving clean indoor air.

In consultation with our HVAC service providers it was recommended that we maintain the use of 2 inch MERV 8 furnace filters as the MERV 13 would decrease the air flow preventing the effectiveness of the GPS NBMI system. Our furnace filters are changed quarterly.

As well, this summer we upgraded windows in two of our elementary school buildings – in one building we actually tripled the size of the ventilation space.

Please find attached the “ventilation system overview” template required for completion on individual buildings.