

**News Release**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
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**Ventilation, recent strategy for COVID-19 mitigation**

In line with the recent studies showing that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is transmitted through airborne transmission in confined spaces, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued the Ventilation Guidelines or Department Order No. 224, Series of 2021, as a new strategy to reduce the transmission.

The guidelines aim to institute proper and adequate ventilation in all workplaces and public transportation by adopting strategies such as having open doors and windows, if applicable, or installing air filtration systems. By having an improved indoor air quality, the contaminated air is diluted and reduces the risk of exposure to the infectious aerosol present in confined spaces.

“There might be [an] additional cost, but at the end of the day, it also means we are reducing the risk of COVID [19],” DOLE Assistant Secretary and Bureau of Working Conditions Director Dr. Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco stated in a DOLE V-Café episode.

A statement by World Health Organization also pointed out that having efficiently working ventilation promotes proper airflow and lowers the risk of spreading airborne pathogens, including the coronavirus.

On the other hand, Asec. Cucueco always reminds everyone that aside from having adequate ventilation, minimum public health standards, such as the proper wearing of face masks and face shields, frequent disinfection, and keeping physical distancing, must continuously be observed to effectively mitigate the virus.

April 28 is the Annual World Day for Safety and Health at work, and while experiencing increased challenges in light of the pandemic, the importance of occupational safety and health is constantly emphasized.

“We really have to work together. No one is safe until everyone is safe. We all have our responsibilities [in preventing the spread of COVID-19],” ASec. Cucueco concluded.

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