

To: **All Canadians**

From: **Canadian Aerosol Transmission Coalition**

“We’re done with this” and **“I want to get back to normal”**
represent common and understandable feelings these days.
After all, we’ve lived with protections from the virus for almost two years.

But is this virus done with us?

“No way”, say a lot of scientists. There is no guarantee that COVID will soon become a mild seasonal illness. Many believe more variants are on the horizon, and we may have more significant surges, even in a best-case scenario.

As a result, we need to **maintain protections** appropriate to the significant hazard. While we get a break with lower case numbers, we need to use the coming months to develop a solid preparedness and response plan for potential future surges of this pandemic.

That’s the message from the Canadian Aerosol Transmission Coalition, a group of experts in occupational hygiene/health, ventilation, respiratory protection, infectious disease transmission and other disciplines.

**We all have the right to clean respirable air – both inside and out –
air free of infectious aerosols and toxic chemicals.**

We envision and work toward a society where clean respirable air is a reality, not an option.

Our **new infographic** describes the multi-layered protection we need now and down the road. Key features include assessing ventilation, improving fresh/make-up air for indoor spaces and filtering air in systems or with standalone units.

We also need effective respiratory protection – N95 respirators or their equivalent – for people in close quarters with others where there is significant community transmission – right now and in the future. We need strategic stockpiles of N95s and/or equivalent respirators that can be deployed quickly so we never again encounter the kind of shortages that led to devastating consequences in 2020 and 2021.

The coming months give us time to restore our capacity for PCR testing and contact tracing, so public health can act swiftly when new variants appear.

The infographic has links to more detailed guidance about specific measures.

Finally, we’ve learned so much in this pandemic about how to protect our collective health. We need to look forward, to apply what’s been learned about ventilation and masking to other issues like communicable diseases, wildfire air pollution, traffic (diesel) emissions and indoor air quality. It would be a shame to forget about it in a rush to get back to “normal” (like we did with the lessons from Ontario’s SARS-1 Royal Commission).

COVID-19

Omicron is a highly transmissible AIRBORNE virus that still disrupts, disables and kills

STOP THE SPREAD

Before **IT** Stops You
by layering these key controls

Vaccination alone is **NOT** enough!



CLEAR THE AIR

Maximize fresh air "in"

Clean with MERV-13 filters, HEPA or DIY units

Increase ventilation to 6+ fresh / clean ACH

Monitor CO2 levels in occupied spaces:

- 600 ppm: okay
- 800 ppm: caution
- >1,000 ppm: action needed



MASK SMART

Critical to protect you and others

Fit: no gaps; check seal

Filter: **Best** – CA-N95, CA-N99, N95, elastomeric

Good – KN95 / KF94 (if proper fit)

Fair – Medical mask with brace

Function: per contacts, time, activity, environment and frequency

Increase protection for higher exposure ...



CLOSE THE GAPS

Many "layers" to protect

Reduce contacts and occupancy

Take extra care when eating or active

Vaccinate / Boost when able

Isolate 10 days if sick or test positive (+) ...



ACH - Air changes / hour
PPM - Parts / million

... Links to additional infographic