

**Interpretation IC 170-2021-3 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2021
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities**

Date Approved: February 1, 2022

Request from: Walker Calderwood, Cx Associates, 110 Main St. Studio 1B, Burlington, VT 05401.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2021, Section 7.2.1 and Table 7.1, regarding exhaust air requirements when Airborne Infectious Isolation (AII) room not used for airborne infection isolation.

Background: It is not clear in the description of ventilation requirements for AII rooms if the air in the space can be returned to an air handler when the room is not actively being used for airborne infection isolation. Note (u) from Table 7.1 indicates that the rooms may have the ACH rate reduced from 12 to 4 while maintaining a negative pressure with respect to adjacent areas when not used for airborne infection isolation, but it does not clarify if during these times air can be returned to an air handling system in lieu of being completely exhausted to the outdoors. No exceptions/exemptions are provided indicating that when the room is not used for airborne infectious isolation the room air can be returned to an air handling system in lieu of all room air must me exhausted directly to the outdoors.

Interpretation: If an Airborne Infectious Isolation (AII) room is not used for airborne infection isolation all room air must still be exhausted directly to the outdoors, but the total air change rate can be reduced from 12 ACH to 4 ACH as long as the negative pressure relationship to adjacent areas remains unchanged.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes