

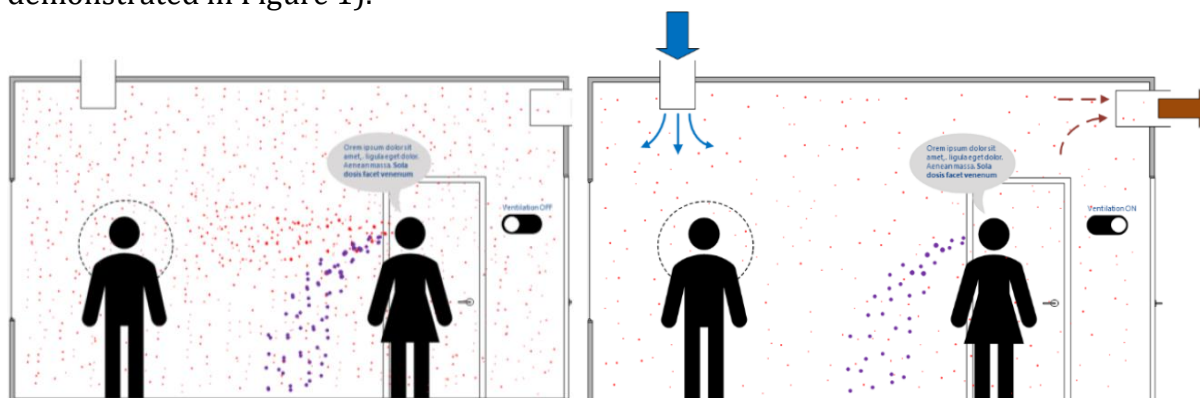
# A note on the importance of maximising natural ventilation to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19 at UL

The [Work Safely Protocol](#) recognises the usefulness of (inter alia) maximising ventilation in mitigating against the spread of COVID-19. There are two ways to achieve this:

- Mechanical ventilation (i.e. forced ventilation), and,
- Natural ventilation

UL's buildings are ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation and natural ventilation (openable windows) and often a combination of both.

B&E have programmed the mechanical ventilation systems on campus to provide maximum ventilation in accordance with Covid 19 guidelines - the impact of which is demonstrated in Figure 1).



**Figure 1 Impact of mechanical ventilation on the amount of virus-laden particles within the breathing zone** (Left figure ventilation off, right figure ventilation on. Source: [REHVA 2020](#))

**The guidelines strongly recommend that natural ventilation be maximized:**

- irrespective of whether or not it is used in conjunction with mechanical ventilation
- even at the expense of room temperature

Opening windows is a simple and effective action that can be taken to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, B&E do not have the resources to open and shut windows across campus to increase natural ventilation. Accordingly, **the recommendation is that you should open windows in your area on commencing work and close when finishing up for the day.**