

TWIN CITIES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS UPDATES VENTILATION SYSTEM TO IMPROVE INDOOR AIR QUALITY, PROTECTING STUDENTS AND STAFF FROM AIRBORNE ILLNESSES

School's COVID-19 Positivity Rate Remains at 1% Since Installing Steril-Aire Technology

Minneapolis, MN (November 16, 2021) – Today, [Twin Cities International Schools](#) announced upgrades to its ventilation and HVAC system with the installation of Steril-Aire's ultraviolet-C germicidal irradiation (UVGI) emitters. UVGI technology is proven to help eliminate and destroy airborne pathogens, allergens, toxins and irritants, creating a safer learning environment for students and teachers. As school districts across the country continue to identify avenues for protecting people within public buildings, Twin Cities International Schools is already at the forefront of instituting science-backed safety measures designed to combat contaminants found in the air, such as the COVID-19 virus.

The charter school, which serves more than 1,000 students and employs approximately 150 teachers and staff, transitioned to online learning in March 2020 to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The following winter, the school partnered with [Steril-Aire](#), a leader in the development of high-performance indoor air quality (IAQ) and (UVGI) technologies, to install the emitters in its rooftop systems before bringing students and teachers back to the classroom.

“Since installing Steril-Aire UVGI emitters, our COVID-19 positivity rate has remained at or below 1%, which is drastically lower than the surrounding Minneapolis-St. Paul community,” said Kelli Smith, the district’s COVID-19 coordinator and the school’s K-4 director. “We're excited to continue to see the positive impact it will have on both student and teacher attendance, which has a direct correlation to learning outcomes.”

Improving IAQ through the installation of UVGI technology is only one protective measure Twin Cities International School has taken to safeguard the health of its students and staff. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the school limited the number of occupants in the building at one time, conducted bi-weekly testing and required masks to be worn indoors.

“We really wanted to bring our students back but also provide peace of mind for their parents and our community about the safety measures we’re implementing at the school,” said middle school director Ismail Ahmed. “After installing the Steril-Aire emitters, we organized a virtual meeting with school administrators and parents to explain our mitigation strategies, and that helped us begin to bring students back to the building, one grade at a time.”

Earlier this year, [Johns Hopkins released a report](#) analyzing the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on K-12 education in the United States. The report found that many schools within the country operate within older buildings with poor ventilation systems, resulting in diminished IAQ. The report concludes that school systems should make indoor air quality a priority in the years to come and to use proven technologies, like HEPA air filtration systems or UVGI technology, to improve ventilation.

“Steril-Aire has focused dedicated resources and expertise on specific industries, including education,” said Steve Gitkin, vice president for Steril-Aire. “There is an incredible amount of misinformation regarding indoor air quality solutions, especially in schools. We are committed to providing support and science-backed solutions for our partners and customers in the education field as they invest in identifying their IAQ needs. We’re excited with the results achieved at Twin Cities International Schools, allowing students and teachers to breathe easy and focus on education.”

Schools around the country can make these critical upgrades to their aging ventilation systems by utilizing the flexible funds made available through the [American Rescue Plan and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) funding](#). In addition to mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus and other airborne illnesses, UVGI systems provide significant energy savings and can reduce maintenance costs well into the future.

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About Twin Cities International Schools

Our school is committed to preparing students for successful and productive lives as United States citizens while supporting them to retain their unique cultural heritage. The school has a centralized administration led by School Director Abdirashid Warsame and a School Board composed of teachers, parents, and community members.

About Steril-Aire

Steril-Aire is a leading innovator of high energy germicidal UVC solutions. Its decades of science-based and technology-backed solutions create a better and safer environment to live, work and breathe. Steril-Aire's science is groundbreaking in enhancing the indoor air quality of customer working environments. Steril-Aire's solutions can be found in hospitals, schools, nursing homes, airports, laboratories, government facilities, offices and food safety. Please visit Steril-Aire at www.steril-aire.com.