

May 2021

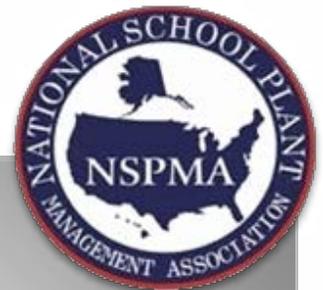
# MANAGING YOUR FACILITIES

Newsletter for the National School Plant Management Association



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South Carolina

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NSPMA Past President  
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Facilities Managers

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## Active VS Passive AIR PURIFYING

There are many different types of air purifiers on the market today. They range from small to large and cheap to very expensive. What most people don't really realize is that there is a wide difference in technology, which will have a major difference on performance. The intent of this paper is to explore these differences and explain why specifically designed bipolar ionization technology should be considered as part of your overall solution.

### PASSIVE AIR PURIFYING

The most common type of air purification is through filtration. If you have a home furnace, the filter on your furnace is acting as a passive air purifying system. It is called passive because it can only purify air that it can pull through its filter and it is limited to how much it can do because of the filter and the fan in the unit that pulls the air through it. Many models will state how many square feet of air that a unit can filter on the specifications. Because of the limitations of what a filter can handle, it may take more than one unit to do an area or one unit per room in a home or office.

Examples of passive air purification include MERV 13 filters, HEPA filters, UV technology (installed near or around the filters near your air handling units for facilities or homes that have central HVAC systems) and standalone units used to filter the air in a room.

Standalone air filtration units need to be used in the correct application or they can present other unintended problems. For example, if a standalone unit is plugged into the back of a classroom, and a student sneezes or coughs or has a virus and exhales, the air filtration unit is naturally pulling air to the back of the classroom in order to get it filtered. The air that is carrying a virus that was exhaled by the student in the front of the classroom is now being pulled through the rest of the students on its journey to the standalone unit. This passive system has therefore created potential risk for the majority of the students in the classroom. In general, standalone units are better suited for homes, patient rooms or apartments with low occupant density, but caution needs to be taken for the same reason. Also, trip hazards are a concern, along with ongoing maintenance of the filters. Consult your manufacture recommendations to ensure that maintenance considerations are well understood before investing in this technology.

### ACTIVE AIR PURIFYING

Active air purifiers are used on the supply side of a building. Because of the lack of awareness of active air purifying technologies, many facilities have opted to increase their ventilation in their buildings in an effort to "dilute" the density of the virus. During cold winter months, this can be a challenge, since the indoor temperature will drop and energy bills will rise with significant opening of windows. Though ventilation is very important, a more sustainable and energy-efficient solution is using an active air purifying technology that scrubs the air clean of harmful VOCs, bacteria and viruses. The main functional difference between active air purifying technologies and passive systems is that active systems do not rely on the air to make their way through a filter; rather, these technologies produce healthy ions that naturally seek and inactivate harmful contaminants.

Before we get to a few popular technologies in this field, it's important to understand the physics behind the technology. Ions are produced naturally in the bottom layer of the Earth's atmosphere, the troposphere. When you are up on a mountain top or near waterfalls, nature produces very high ion concentration levels. After a heavy rain or thunder storm, there is a desirable "clean" odor outdoors – those are ions you are breathing because rainstorms create them. These ions are actively and naturally scrubbing the air you breathe. The problem is when you get to denser populated towns and cities, typical ion levels drop dramatically. In these same dense towns and cities – the indoor air has even fewer ions. Fewer ions in the air allow VOCs, bacteria and viruses to float freely, infecting and harming people.

### So how does it exactly work?

Britannica's definition of an Ion: **Any atom or group of atoms that bears one or more positive or negative electrical charges.**

What we are interested in though, is not *any* ion. We are interested in the hydroxyl radical (OH), which is formed by an excited oxygen ion reacting with water vapor.

**Why?** Because the (OH) is missing a hydrogen atom, or (H), to make it (H<sub>2</sub>O).

**Why is that important? Because the (OH), or hydroxyl radical, in physics will always seek to find another hydrogen atom – and VOCs, bacteria and viruses all have an (H) to give. When it finds its victim, it will inactivate it by pulling an (H) from it. It's that simple and extremely exciting because physics does not know Sars-Cov-2 from any other virus and it will never know if the virus mutates or if another virus appears because it will always look for that hydrogen atom to complete itself and inactivate the harmful VOC, bacteria or virus, whether it is Sars-Cov-2 or Sars-Cov-22.**

Now that we have your attention, let's discuss how we can produce millions of ions indoors to inactivate and scrub the air as people are breathing.

One emerging technology is **photocatalytic oxidation (PCO)**. There are companies that have equipment that produce these hydroxyl radicals (OH). The Earth's atmosphere actively produces billions of (OH) constantly. Why is this important to note? Because **these (OH) last less than a second.** That works in the Earth's atmosphere but it is not so effective when manmade technology produces them. It tends to act more like a passive system in duct work much like UV sterilization, cleaning the air that is passing through the system.

The more advanced technology producing OH uses bi-polar ionization (BPI) producing technology that produces ions that last much longer.

The two most common forms of this kind of technology are both patented technologies. It is important to understand the difference between the two because, though they are both in the family of bi-polar ionization, there are very clear differences.

## Dielectric Barrier Discharge Bi-Polar Ionization (DBD BPI) VS. NeedlePoint BPI (NBPI)

### Dielectric Barrier Discharge Bi-Polar Ionization (DBD BPI)

DBD BPI is manufactured in the USA by Clean Air Group LLC based in Fairfield CT under the AtmosAir brand, and distributed by Pandemic Solutions Inc, headquartered out of New Rochelle NY, the site of the first USA epicenter.

DBD BPI uses a patented technology that replicates natural cleaning compounds created by nature, similar to the heavy rainfall we described earlier. The technology uses **BPI** or **bi-polar ionization** (negatively and positively charged ions) and active oxygen produced by units installed in the supply ductwork of an HVAC system. The healthy ions go out from the **supply vent** to clean the air (remember Passive Air Purifying systems use the "return ducts" to do their work pulling air in), thus allowing it to affect a larger area than a passive system. There are few if any limitations on how much square footage it can cover, but it is much higher than any passive system that has to filter the air.

BPI deals with a number of sources that cause odors such as bacteria, VOCs and mold. So, in addition to removing particles from the air, the active oxygen removes odors that will make the indoor space smell fresh and clean.

DBD Bi-Polar Ionization, relates to the physical construction of the ionizing tube (electrode).

- One model, for example, with an F sized tube uses a 21-inch tube (electrode) to treat approximately 2,500 square feet or 2,500 CFM.
- Further evidence of the large volume of space that DBD BPI technology can purify includes an example of one of its larger units. The 508FC model has (8) 21" tubes per system. Each tube can discharge 75,000 ions per second covering 15,000 square feet or 15,000 CFM.
- A most critical difference with AtmosAir's technology is that the **electrode is inside of the ionizing tube**. AtmosAir's unexposed design prevents oxidation from occurring as quickly as an exposed design.
- This DBD BPI is designed to be UL2998 Compliant or Verified Zero Ozone Technology.
- This engineered ionizing tube meets the requirements for ASHREA's 62.1 Indoor Air Quality Procedure, so it will allow a facility to decrease the amount of outdoor air brought into its building which will reduce energy consumption and expense.
- The design of these ionizing tubes prevents the electrode/ cathode from acting as an electrostatic precipitator giving it a longer lifespan than a needlepoint design.
- The composite tube acts as a "barrier" between the inner core (electrode) where input voltage is applied. The voltage tries to "jump" to the outside of the tube but cannot because of the Dielectric Barrier. This process creates a rapidly alternating energy field that converts oxygen molecules into positively or negatively charged oxygen ions that last 300 seconds or more.

### Needlepoint Ionization

Needlepoint technology (NBPI) is patented and is produced by Needlepoint Global Plasma Solutions located in Charlotte, NC. The product is manufactured in China. It private labels its product to other companies (IE iWave). Needlepoint or brush ionization uses DC or AC voltage applied to a set of quarter-inch Needlepoints or brushes (electrodes). Here are some key facts with

- Most needlepoint designs use a quarter inch (0.25") electrode (needlepoint).
- Needlepoint systems use exposed electrodes to generate air ionization.
- NP ionizers produce single polarity ions at separate needlepoints. Alternating current systems produce both polarities of air ions at each needlepoint.
- When a carbon brush is subjected to a 'cold plasma discharge' it eventually burns, as it is carbon
- after all. This turns to ash and 'clogs' the emitter reducing ion emission effectiveness severely. This is another reason why you may see products with 'wiper arms' which clean off the dead brush debris. The wiper arms rely on a stepper motor which will wear out over time. Any product that is not self-cleaning is sure to need to be replaced at some point.
- Most HVAC professionals has experienced seeing a dirty coil or dirty return filter. Most can envision the fact that a 0.25" needlepoint upstream of a coil stands little to no chance of not getting covered by particles just as a media filter would. They require constant cleaning for effectiveness.

In conclusion, although passive air purifying technology is a great first step, very little compares to the AtmosAir bi-polar technology that exists today – by far the most advanced active air purifying system on the market that is proven to reduce the coronavirus by 99.92% in 30 minutes. Even more importantly, it is an investment in proactive technology that does not care which virus it is inactivating – it is a system that will work with any virus including the latest variants or any other harmful bacteria or viruses we encounter in the future.

*References: Special thank you to The Nature of Air 2019 by Terrapin Bright Green, AtmosAir Solutions, and our Advisory Board Member, Jeremy McDonald, a principle member of GuthDeConzo.*

*Author: Peter Cantone is CEO and Founder of Pandemic Solutions LLC. Date: April 10, 2021*

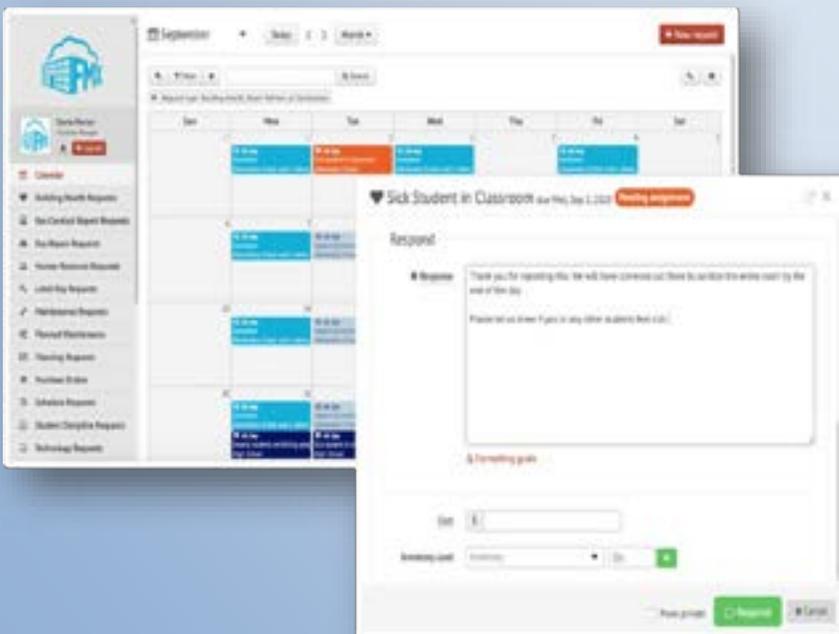
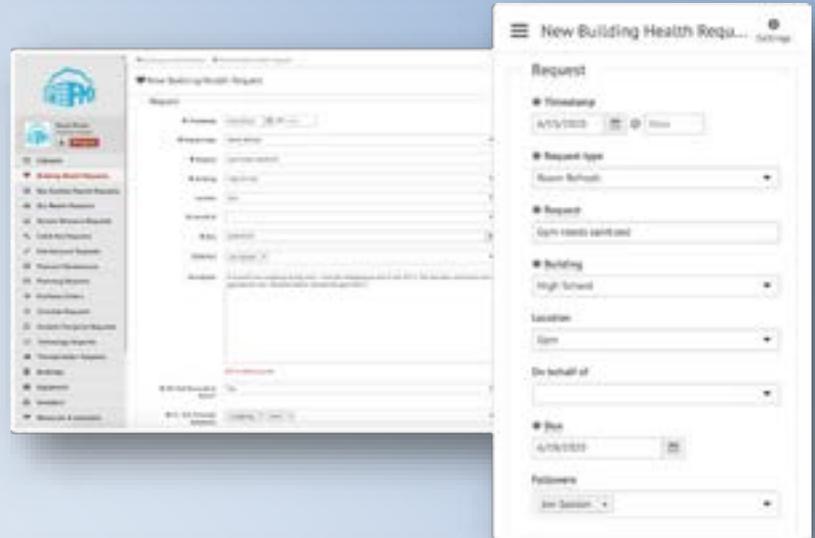
# Facilities management software built by facilities managers

This past year, K-12 districts have shown a tremendous level of resilience as they navigated the health and safety of their staff and students. While leadership paved the way for success, staff added creativity to their curriculums, and the administrative team answered countless questions from concerned parents. And at the forefront of this resilience has been the facilities management team. You worked to sanitize your facilities, put proper inventory into place, and adhere to CDC protocols.

Facilities teams worldwide have been fighting the battle against COVID-19 and have done a great job. You are the real heroes in this fight—and it continues each day.

After working with countless K-12 facilities management teams, FMX, a leader in facilities management software has developed an even greater respect for facilities and maintenance leaders, their teams, and the significant role their departments play in a district's success. "FMX was built for facilities managers, by facilities managers. We've always understood the crucial role that facilities management has on students' ability to excel in school. Still, this past year has made that even more apparent," says Brian, President and Founder of FMX. He continues to say, "Facilities leaders are heroes, and this past year those heroes ensured schools were well-sanitized for students and staff to return safely."

The team at FMX is grateful to have the opportunity to help so many districts meet CDC protocols, keep schools clean, track PPC equipment, and help districts re-open productively. "It's gratifying to see the impact FMX has on K-12 districts and their communities. As a former K-12 facilities manager, I love working with facilities teams to provide solutions for their evolving needs. I'm eager to see how FMX adapts its software to serve the growing needs of schools in the future," says FMX K-12 Practice Leader Darin Porter.



FMX has given hundreds of school districts peace of mind this past year. To learn more about FMX's facilities management software and the benefits it can provide your district, visit their website at [www.gofmx.com/products/fmxfacilitymanager](http://www.gofmx.com/products/fmxfacilitymanager).



## Adolescent Mental Health & Active Shooter Security Codes & Standards

By Tom Czyz, CEO & Co-Founder, Armoured One, LLC

It's no surprise that mental health issues are a major concern across the United States. After more than a year of social isolation, compounded with economic and political uncertainty, and a global pandemic, the number of reported mental health issues are on the rise. One group, in particular, is feeling the brunt of these issues: adolescents.

### Increasing Adolescent Mental Health Issues

It was reported in 2019 that mental health issues were on the rise amongst adolescents and young adults.<sup>1</sup> That was a year before the world shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With community and school shutdowns, limited social interaction, increased isolation, the possibility of abuse or neglect in the home, and a lack of structure or support that many adolescents depend on, it's not a surprise that 2020 saw further increases for the specific group. Adolescents have become isolated from social interaction, alienated from the structure and trusted adult relationships in schools, and exposed to potential dangers in their homes.

According to the CDC, 37% of high schoolers reported experiencing persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness and 17% of adolescents reported creating a suicide plan.<sup>2</sup> However, in a more recent study conducted by Navigate360, 59% of teens reported that they knew someone who considered suicide or self-harm. That's an increase in three points in as many months (January to March 2021).<sup>3</sup> There's a clear gap in adolescents reporting their mental health issues and them actually existing. This should be a concern because that also means there is a gap in them getting the help they need.

The CDC also reports that interpersonal connections are critical to positive mental health in teens and young adults.<sup>4</sup> With continued isolation and uncertainty, we can only assume that mental health issues will continue to rise in the adolescent population. The mental health crisis in this age group has even forced school districts to reopen in order to provide that connectivity and structure that so many teenagers require for better mental health.<sup>5</sup>

### Why Is This An Issue?

It's estimated that 19% of people in the United States are living with mental health illnesses; that's more than 47 million people.<sup>6</sup> Yet, there are not nearly enough mental health professionals to take on the growing demand and it takes years (up to eight) for someone to become a practicing and licensed clinician in the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> Rosenberg, Jaime. "Mental Health Issues On the Rise Among Adolescents, Young Adults." *The American Journal of Managed Care*, 19 Mar. 2019, [www.ajmc.com/view/mental-health-issues-on-the-rise-among-adolescents-young-adults](http://www.ajmc.com/view/mental-health-issues-on-the-rise-among-adolescents-young-adults).

<sup>2</sup> "Connection is Key to Good Adolescent Mental Health." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 22 Oct. 2020, [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/mental-health/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/mental-health/index.htm).

<sup>3</sup> "Surveying Teens' Sense of Safety." *Navigate360*, [navigate360.com/surveying-teens-sense-safety-zogby-q2-2021/](http://navigate360.com/surveying-teens-sense-safety-zogby-q2-2021/).

<sup>4</sup> "Connection is Key to Good Adolescent Mental Health." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 22 Oct. 2020, [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/mental-health/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/mental-health/index.htm).

<sup>5</sup> Green, Erica L. "Surge of Student Suicides Pushes Las Vegas Schools to Reopen." *New York Times*, 24 Jan. 2021, [www.nytimes.com/2021/01/24/us/politics/student-suicides-nevada-coronavirus.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/24/us/politics/student-suicides-nevada-coronavirus.html).

<sup>6</sup> "2021 State Of Mental Health In America." *Mental Health America*, 20 Oct. 2020, [www.mhanational.org/research-reports/2021-state-mental-health-america](http://www.mhanational.org/research-reports/2021-state-mental-health-america).

In states like Oregon, Utah, and Alaska, it's not just the number of providers, but the access to those providers that has become a growing challenge.<sup>7</sup> With COVID-19's impact on the economy and the number of job losses across the country, access to health care to help pay for mental health care has also been challenged.

For populations that struggle to access mental health support, going undiagnosed and untreated, they can pose a threat to themselves and to others. It can cause them to act out in ways that are dangerous to the community. As schools are reopening to continue instruction and provide structure, they should also consider the physical safety and security of their buildings beyond that of just COVID-19 precautions. Active shooter incidents in schools should not be forgotten just because COVID-19 has taken center stage.

According to the National Safety & Security Protection Association (NSSPA), 83% of active shooter attackers were current or former students.<sup>8</sup> That statistic, coupled with the fact that students will be reconvening with increased levels of mental health issues, should be taken into serious consideration. As reported in the Navigate360 poll, only 23% of students feel confident that their school is "prepared to handle any mental health issues they may face."

### **Active Shooter Safety & Security Codes**

It's standard practice for companies and organizations to utilize past data to influence decision making in the future. It's a way for them to ensure the success of a product, service, or both, or expand into new opportunities. The same rings true for safety and security decisions. At Armoured One, we have extensively studied past active shooter incidents, along with the NSSPA, to influence our own decision-making as well as inform our customers so that they can make informed decisions. This is especially important when advising school districts on reasonable and accessible actions that they can take in order to protect their people.

Fire codes exist to protect building occupants from deadly fires. They are required by law in the initial plans to build or renovate a structure. Why then, don't we expect the same for other deadly events like active shooter attacks? Minimal standards should exist that are accessible and implementable for school districts across the country to protect students, faculty, and staff from active shooter attacks. These should be non-negotiables, especially in the planning stages. Until we can prevent these events, we have to help schools prepare for them.

The following are the minimal safety and security standards that schools should implement.

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<sup>7</sup> Renner, Rebecca. "COVID-19 is taking a heavy toll in America's mental health-care deserts." *National Geographic*, 30 Dec. 2020, [www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/coronavirus-is-taking-heavy-toll-america-mental-health-care-deserts](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/coronavirus-is-taking-heavy-toll-america-mental-health-care-deserts).

<sup>8</sup> "2019 NSSPA K-12 Active Shooter Study." *National Safety Security Protection Association*, 2019, [nsspa.org/statistics/2019-nsspa-k-12-active-shooter-study/](http://nsspa.org/statistics/2019-nsspa-k-12-active-shooter-study/).

# SAFETY & SECURITY CODES

## MAIN ENTRANCE

- Security Cameras
- Door Numbers
- Building Numbers
- PA Speaker
- Blue Light System
- A/V Intercom
- Card Reader/Key Pad
- Recessed Pull Handles
- One-Way Vinyl Graphics

## SECURE VESTIBULE

- Designated Check-In
- Greeter Window
- Shelf-Mounted Transaction Slot
- Security Camera
- Locked & Access Controlled Main Office Door & Vetting Doors

## EGRESS DOOR INTERIOR

- Door Numbers
- Security Glass/Film
- Intrusion Detector
- Manual Fire Alarm Pull System
- Appropriate Signage

## EGRESS DOOR EXTERIOR

- Door Numbers
- Security Glass/Film
- Security Camera
- PA Speaker
- Recessed Pull Handles
- Blue Light System
- Card Reader/Key Pad
- 

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# SAFETY & SECURITY CODES

## EXTERIOR ROOM WINDOWS

- Number Labels

## CLASSROOM SAFE ZONE

- Out of line of sight from door windows
- Bleed Kit
- Landline Phone
- Visible room number
- Free from obstruction

## HALLWAY WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

- Clear Arrows
- Large Room Titles or Numbers

## PARKING LOT SIGNAGE

- School Name
- Parking Lot Zones

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## Get kids back into the classroom safely with CASPR's air and surface disinfectant technology

Even with inoculation levels rising and the number of new COVID-19 cases in decline, some school districts have only recently begun to return students to classrooms, and other school districts are still restricted to at-home learning. [CASPR Group](#) offers technology that would allow students, teachers and administrators a path to a safe return to campus.

CASPR – which stands for Continuous Air & Surface Pathogen Reduction – is on a mission to make the world indoors a better place. As the leader in smart environmental indoor technology, CASPR's solutions work to ensure the indoor air we breathe is the healthiest it can be, enhancing our well-being and our performance in the process. Its award-winning continuous disinfection technology based on photocatalysis attacks viruses, bacteria and mold at the molecular level. The innovative technology is completely automated and does not require an operator to work.

Unlike disinfection processes that use ultraviolet (UV) light or harmful chemicals, CASPR's technology uses photocatalytic oxidation (PCO<sup>x</sup>) to turn oxygen and ambient moisture into safe levels of gaseous hydrogen peroxide that disinfect indoor air and surfaces. The result is a continuous reduction of air and surface viruses and bacteria in a way that is safe for use in spaces occupied with people, plants and pets, and with no need to modify existing custodial processes.

The team at Dallas, Texas-based CASPR has been recognized with dozens of awards, including "Innovation of Excellence" by NASA for their work on healthcare. Here is a brief video that shows how the technology works: <https://youtu.be/s69VkoC96dM>

### HOW IT WORKS

CASPR comes in a variety of styles designed to work for every indoor location. The most popular unit is called CASPR Pro In-Duct, and like it sounds, the technology is placed inside the air ducts. For bigger spaces, multiple In-Duct units are used. CASPR is also available as a compact, tabletop model that allows people to see it and know it's working. CASPR's newest product, the CASPR BLU Tile, is easily installed in a dropped ceiling tile and works without going into a building's duct work. A CASPR representative will work with you to figure out the best model or combination of models for your particular needs.

"Working with customers in a variety of industries, we've found that our clients are using CASPR technology not only to create the safest indoor environment for their employees, customers and guests, but as a competitive advantage as their industries work to recover from the pandemic," notes CASPR Group CEO Scott Wheeler. "We want to make sure that their investment in the world's most innovative technology for air and surface disinfection gets noticed by the people who benefit from its installation."

## MEDICAL-GRADE TECHNOLOGY

CASPR was originally used in hospitals and medical offices. When COVID-19 made attending school and going to work challenging, CASPR Group moved to apply its medical-grade solutions for continuous air and surface disinfection to a broader range of buildings, sensing the public demand for solutions that [eliminate up to 99.6 percent of contaminants](#). CASPR worked with building managers across the country to determine their needs, and they shared an interest in a disinfection solution that offered both ease of installation and low-to-no maintenance.



“Being able to offer clean, healthy environments for everyone is our mission at CASPR Group,” said Dr. Christophe Suchy, co-founder and chief inventor of CASPR Group. “Our technology has been [proven to kill 99.99% of SARS-CoV-2 viruses](#) within 24 hours, which gives our customers peace of mind and a safe environment to meet the needs of those they serve.”

The technology has been extensively studied, and in medical environments, they found that CASPR led to a more than 40% decrease in absenteeism from staff. In school environments, studies showed:

- ✓ A statistically significant decrease in a bathroom’s bio burden by 70% in the air and 97+% on surfaces relative to the control bathroom
- ✓ Tested surfaces in two school rooms yielded at least a 97% reduction in surface bacteria burden.

CASPR technology is in use at schools and universities including Michigan State University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Englewood Schools in New Jersey, The Dalton School in New York, Secaucus Public School District in New Jersey, the Toronto Schools and others.

“More and more schools and universities recognize that the entire environment must be treated, air and surface, if we are going to win the fight against COVID-19,” said Wheeler. “It also helps that the technology works against bacteria, such as staph, especially within athletic environments like locker rooms and gymnasiums.”

## CONSUMER RESEARCH

CASPR has been tested widely outside of school environments as well. A recent study conducted for CASPR Group by New Orleans-based research group MDRG worked to gauge the importance consumers place upon air and surface disinfection. The study looked at key consumers in office buildings, public transportation and retail environments and found clear patterns emerged that affect a consumer’s willingness to engage.

Several key findings emerged:

1. Two thirds of respondents are more likely to patronize a restaurant with an air and surface disinfecting solution over others.
2. Nearly 70% of public transportation users are willing to pay more for ticketing if air disinfection equipment is installed.
3. Over half of respondents felt that air disinfection solutions would still be important following the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Once aware of the existence of air and surface disinfecting technologies, most respondents increased the importance of those technologies when compared to other options (masks, hand washing, social distancing, etc.)



CASPR has now been able to help businesses find a way to install a solution that is effective against both viruses and bacteria in the air and on surfaces for free. The SBA recently revised rules for PPP utilization to include devices that affect sanitation, social distancing and worker safety.

## SAVE THE DATE

### NSPMA & SCSPMA JOINT CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW EXPO

January 30th-February 2nd 2022

Registration Opens April 30th!!!

*Join us at the Kingston Plantation,  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.*



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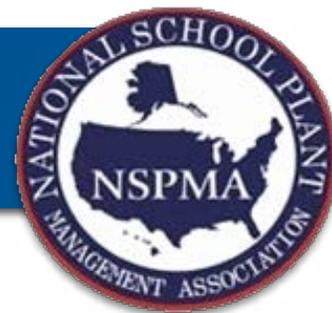


## SAVE *the* DATE

**NSPMA & SCSPMA JOINT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW EXPO**  
**JANUARY 30TH-FEBRUARY 2ND, 2022**  
**MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA**



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