

# Safety Alert



**SUBJECT:**     **Coronavirus & Air Conditioning**

**RECIPIENTS:**    **All Council Services**

**ISSUE DATE:**    **June 2020**

**REF:**     **HSA20**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released the following statement regarding the perceived risks of spreading the Coronavirus through air conditioning units:



**The risk of air conditioning spreading coronavirus is extremely low.**

- If you use a centralised ventilation system that removes and circulates air to different rooms, it is recommended that you turn off recirculation and use a fresh air supply.
- You do not need to adjust other types of air conditioning systems.

Where possible, LCC has already adjusted the settings on air conditioning units, in line with the current recommendations. LCC's air conditioning units are serviced every six months, including an anti-bacterial cleaning of the air filters.

It is worth noting also that time spent outdoors in the fresh air and sunlight has been found to offer protection against COVID-19. Professor Alan Penn, a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), said last month that: "The science suggests that being outside in sunlight, with good ventilation, are both highly protective against transmission of the virus."

**Useful links / further information:**

- [LCC's Managers Health & Safety Toolkit Covid-19](#)
- [CIBSE COVID-19 Ventilation Guidance](#)
- [HSE Air conditioning and ventilation during the Coronavirus outbreak](#)

For further advice and guidance, please contact the Corporate Health & Safety team:  
[corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk).