CARE HOME

CASE STUDY & LIVE TEST

Learn how AeraMax® Pro commercial air purifiers help Caritas Elderly Care Home St. Anna improve air quality.

Caritas Elderly Care Home St Anna – Arnsberg, Germany

The Problem

Care home residents have been one of the most vulnerable groups of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although they face the risk of becoming seriously ill if they catch the virus, they live in close contact with staff and other residents, in environments that can be less easy to ventilate while maintaining a consistent level of warmth.

Clean air is an important way to lower the risk of virus transmission because this removes the older, stale air that contains virus particles, including Covid-19. Ideally, air in indoor spaces should be refreshed at least two to three times each hour.

Managers at Caritas Elderly Care Home St Anna needed to find an alternative way to filtrate air in the home while keeping residents comfortable.

The Solution

Caritas chose Aeramax Pro Air Purifiers as an additional way to protect residents and staff, on top of the hygiene and distancing measures already in place. Air purifiers suited to the size of each room were installed in the shared common room and staff room. These delivered three to five changes of air per hour.

> **"Air purifiers are an effective measure for infection control, especially in retirement homes."**
>
> Martin Wesselmann, member of the commission of indoor air quality (IRK)

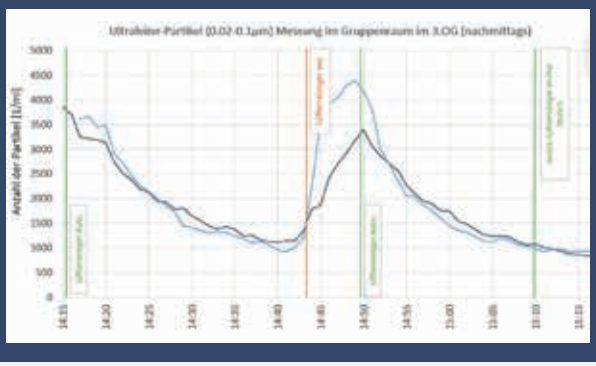
Fellowes AIR PURIFIERS

The Result

Despite there being a high number of particles in the air prior to use of the units, as a result of activities such as singing, reading aloud and communal eating, pollutants reduced by 50% after just five minutes of using Aeramax Pro Air Purifiers. After 30 minutes, 80% of pollutants were removed from the air.

The installation of the air purifiers has given residents, staff and families peace of mind and wellbeing, and greater confidence in the quality of care provided by the home.

In only 5 minutes, particle exposure halved. In 30 minutes, the risk of infection reduced by 80%.



Testing

To understand the effectiveness of the air purifiers, Martin Wesselmann B.Sc. Chem, of Building Diagnostics Wesselmann and member of the Commission for Indoor Hygiene of the Federal Environment Agency, measured their air cleaning performance.

Mr Wesselmann used several analytical devices and particle counters to assess how effective the air purifiers would be in a non-laboratory setting, and whether the units could reduce the amount of virus particles in rooms with typically high aerosol loads.

The study measured the types of particles in each room before the units were switched on, finding PM (particulate matter) size 1, 2.5 and 10 particles over one day. The study then measured the reduction in particles once the purifiers were in use.

Fellowes air purifiers and coronaviruses

Air purifiers that deliver air exchange rates of at least three to five times per hour can help to significantly reduce the risk of airborne infection.

The measuring devices used in the test at Caritas Elderly Care Home St Anna measured all relevant particles ranging from 0.02 to 20PM. This includes coronaviruses, which have a diameter of approximately 0.06 to 0.16PM (micrometres).

Air purifiers should be used as an additional measure to social distancing and good hygiene to reduce the risk of virus transmission.

Source: Report 20-IS-100-2 AeraMax Pro Praxistest Caritas Arnsberg

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Unit 2 Ontario Drive, New Rossington, Doncaster, DN11 0BF | 00800 18101810

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