



# Proactive Safeguards for HVAC & COVID-19 SPECIAL RELEASE

HVAC EXPERT SERIES

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## PROACTIVE SAFEGUARDS FOR HVAC & COVID-19

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The time has come to recognize airborne transmission of the COVID-19 disease (Report: Transmission Potential of SARS-CoV-2 in Viral Shedding Observed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center). Concern now revolves around the possibility that the virus can be circulated throughout a building or distributed in the air delivered by its HVAC system. To the best of my knowledge, HVAC technologies with validated claims to kill COVID-19 are not yet obtainable because until now the specific virus wasn't available for research. Considering it can take more than a year to get a viral claim approved by regulatory agencies, what can be done immediately to proactively safeguard critical healthcare environments to help protect both patients and staff from possible airborne infection? The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has enacted a "hierarchy-based" policy. This means if a company's product has been found to be effective against harder-to-kill viruses, its "likely" to kill a virus like COVID-19. A product that is likely to provide the greatest protection to you from COVID-19 will have claims against at least one non-enveloped virus such as Norovirus, Feline Calicivirus, Poliovirus, Rhinovirus, or Reovirus. Once we have products available with "evidence based" test results our options will be more clearly defined, but this may take a while. It's always best to use products that have been qualified for the specific viral pathogen of concern. Until then, the EPA says that if you cannot obtain those products, then use products that are effective at killing Human Coronavirus because it's expected those products will also be effective against SARS-CoV-2.



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David Schurk is Strategic Account Manager-Healthcare for Carrier West, based out of Denver, CO. He is a Licensed Designer of Engineering Systems and has over 35-years of experience in the design and analysis of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems for a variety of market sectors, with a special focus on healthcare facilities.

He is a LEED-AP and has been involved in the conception, design and selection of systems for over 10-projects achieving LEED certified status. He is also a Certified Energy Manager, a Certified Demand Side Manager, a Certified Water Efficiency Professional, a Certified Sustainable Facilities Professional, a Board Certified Indoor Air Quality Manager, and is Health Care Constructor Certified.

David is active in ASHE (Member and serving on the ASHE Editorial Advisory Board), ASHRAE (past Chapter President, current Member and serving on TC9.6), the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Colorado Association of Healthcare Engineers and Directors, the Houston Area Association for Hospital Engineering, the Texas Association of Healthcare Facilities Management, the California Society of Healthcare Engineers, the Association of Energy Engineers as well as several other industry associations.

He has also authored various technical articles for a number of industry trade magazines and is a featured presenter at regional and national industry events. He can be reached at [dschurk@carrierwest.com](mailto:dschurk@carrierwest.com) or 303-921-2220.

