# IMPROVING ROOM VENTILATION FOR **AIRBORNE DISEASES**

Isolating individuals with an airborne respiratory disease in congregate living settings is necessary to avoid spreading the illness to other residents and staff. In facilities where a true airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) is not available, follow one of these strategies to set up temporary patient isolation areas.

Easiest to Implement

Temporary isolation using a Portable Air Cleaner (PAC) with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter
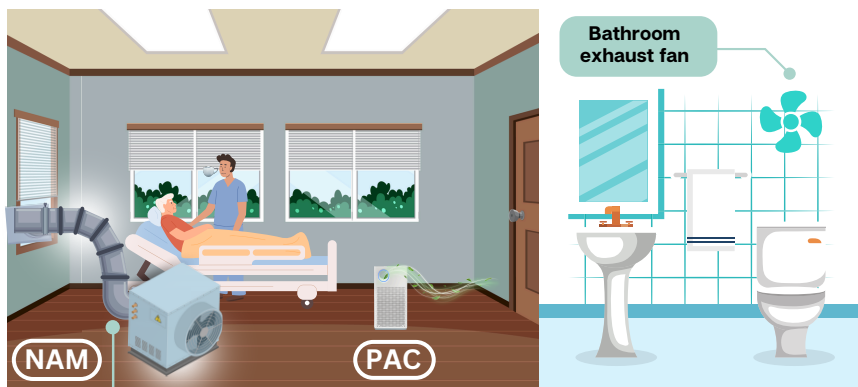
1. Use a PAC with a HEPA filter to increase filtration.
2. Run the bathroom exhaust fan.
3. Keep windows and doors closed.
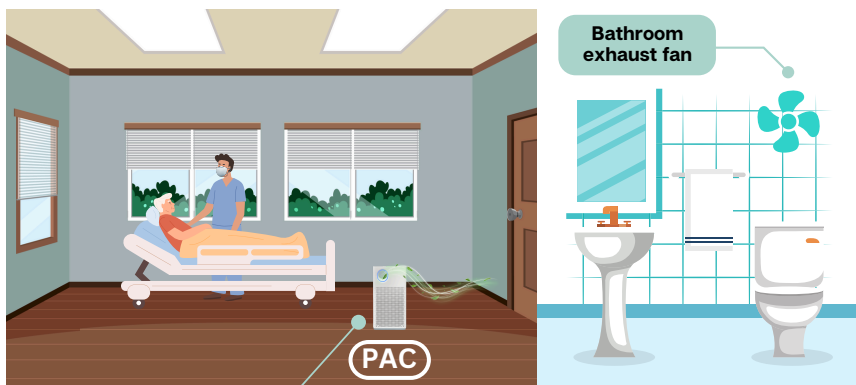
More Effective

Temporary isolation using a negative air machine (NAM)

1. Use a NAM to exhaust air directly outdoors through a window insert. Aim for a ventilation rate of 6-12 air changes per hour.
2. Run the bathroom exhaust fan.

3. Keep windows and doors closed.
4. Do not recirculate air exhausted from this room to other areas, unless it is first HEPA-filtered.
5. Run a PAC with HEPA filter unless NAM has quality built-in filtration.

Visit the full CDPH guidance: go.cdph.ca.gov/ventilation.
For emergency surge situations, use the QR code to access the HCAI's emergency ventilation guide. For more information, contact the CDPH Occupational Health Branch at occhealth@cdph.ca.gov.

CDPH
California Department of
Public Health