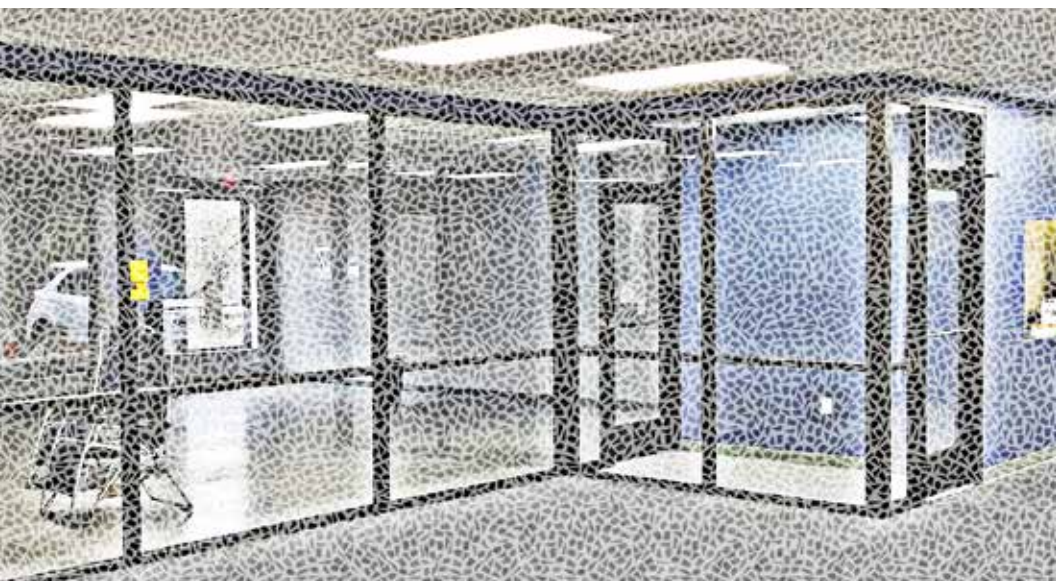


A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO NEGATIVE PRESSURE ROOMS

QPS MISSOURI'S NEGATIVE PRESSURE ROOM

uses lower air pressure than the rooms surrounding it to allow outside air into the facility. This traps and keeps harmful particles from leaving the potentially contaminated area.





NEGATIVE PRESSURE ROOMS

Commonly used in hospital intensive care units (ICUs) as a method of infection control, negative pressure rooms isolate patients with contagious, airborne diseases such as measles, tuberculosis, SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. They use lower air pressure to allow outside air into the segregated environment, trapping debris, dust particles, and pathogens within the facility. Negative pressure rooms protect people outside the room by preventing exposure to airborne pathogens from a potentially dangerous disease that may be present inside the room.

Components of a Negative Pressure Room

- ▶ A negative pressure room requires numerous components to remain effective:
 - A minimum of 12 air flow changes per hour must occur to sustain the desired environment.
 - Air must be recirculated through HEPA filters to remove airborne contaminants.
 - Appropriate fans and ductwork must be present to move air out of the room while circulating new air into the room.
 - The floors, ceilings, walls, and windows must be sealed thoroughly to keep harmful particles inside the room.
 - There must be an intermediate room, or anteroom, between the negative pressure room and adjoining spaces to assist in preventing the spread of potentially harmful particles and pathogens.





How a Negative Pressure Room Works

In a negative pressure room, the air pressure inside the room is lower than the air pressure outside the room. This means that when the door or anteroom is opened, potentially contaminated air or other dangerous particles from inside the room will not flow outside into non-contaminated areas. Instead, non-contaminated filtered air will flow into the negative pressure room. The air is then sucked out of the room via the exhaust systems, which are built with filters that are similar to the N95 masks, that will clean the air of any contaminated or potentially harmful particles, before it is pumped outside.

QPS Missouri's Negative Pressure Room

In the fall of 2020, QPS Missouri added a 2,500-square-foot negative pressure facility to our campus located in Springfield, Missouri. The facility does not have individual rooms for each participant. Rather, it is comprised of a common area, anteroom, dispensary, and a negative pressure room.

Benefits of a Negative Pressure Room

By adding a negative pressure room to our campus, QPS Missouri has gained the capability to conduct clinical research studies that we weren't previously able to handle. These studies include, but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Respiratory Trials
- ▶ Smoking Trials
- ▶ COVID-19 Testing



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