

## HVAC Hygiene and Healthcare Facilities

The overall risks associated with HVAC system cleaning, decontamination and restoration projects in healthcare facilities depends on patient risk factors as well as various processes and procedures that take place during the course of the project. The patient risk with the greatest consequence is infection followed by allergic reaction or irritation.

The importance for assessing the risks and developing appropriate contaminant control procedures is highlighted by the fact that patients in health care facilities whose immune systems function poorly because of disease or medication are particularly vulnerable to airborne viable particle contaminants.

The primary concern during HVAC decontamination and cleaning projects in health care facilities is the dissemination of airborne contaminants, especially fungal spores, e.g. Aspergillus. Fungal spores, while harmless to most, can lead to serious morbidity and mortality in immune suppressed populations. Implementing infection control measures during these projects is imperative to reduce the risk of airborne and environmental contamination. Identifying strategies necessary to eliminate this type of contamination should be a major focus of all infection control staff at health care facilities and to those hospital engineers conducting and managing the project.

One of the major requirements of a successful project is adequate planning prior to the commencement of the project and continuous communication between the hospital engineers, infection control staff and the hospital staff in the occupied areas being served by the systems being decontaminated.

Contaminant control strategies selected for use during any HVAC decontamination and cleaning project depend on several factors: project size, type and potential amount of contaminants, building occupancy characteristics and consequences of patient/occupant and equipment exposure.

A G & G Services is more than just a duct cleaning company. We can help clean, decontaminate and restore your HVAC systems without compromising the air quality in the areas they serve.

If you require further information or would like us to prepare an obligation free proposal, please contact A G & G Services on 1300 734 731.