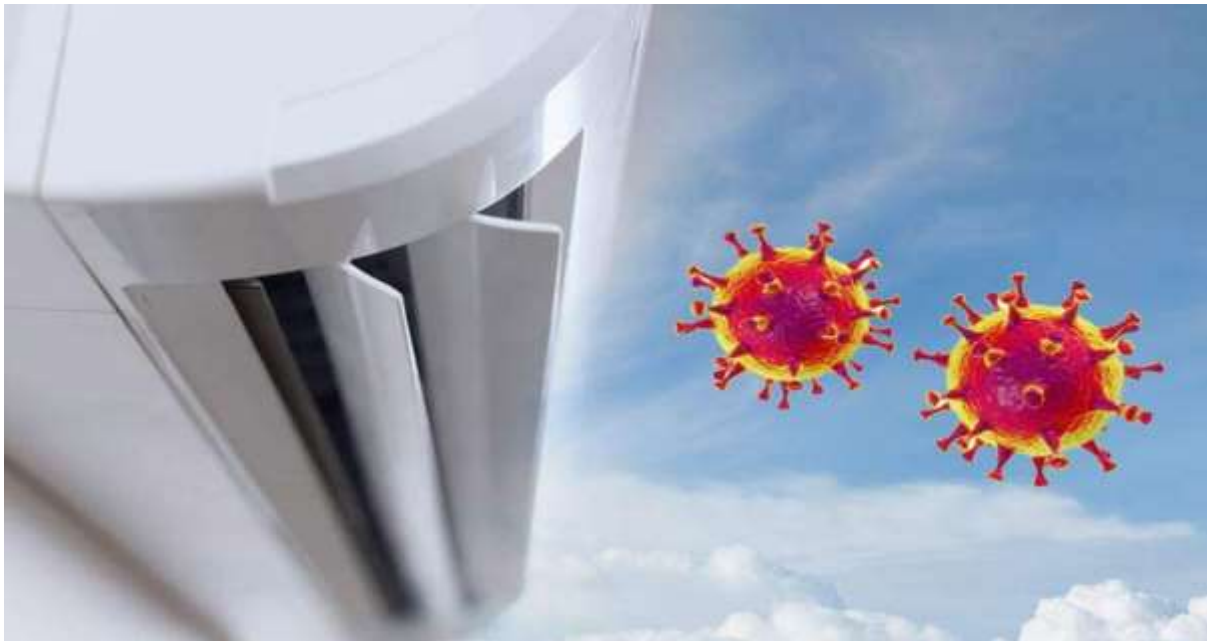


## Guidance for the use of Fans and Air Conditioning Units



COVID-19 similarly to Clostridium Difficile, MRSA, and Norovirus can spread through particles in the air. This is further increased by the use of fans and re-circulating air conditioning units.

Now that we enter the summer months, it is important to take into account the following information before switching on fans or air conditioning units.

### Fans

Only use fans in a single room with a single person. Any fan **must be cleaned** regularly to avoid surface contact contamination, as viruses can live on plastic surfaces for several days.

Portable fans should **NOT** be used in the following situations:

- In communal areas
- In areas where immunocompromised patients receive care
- In rooms where a patient is on airborne precautions
- In rooms where a patient is on droplet or contact precautions, for example, clostridium difficile, MRSA, norovirus, COVID-19
- In rooms with directed airflow e.g. positive or negative pressure rooms

### Air Conditioning Units

The safest option would be to use Fresh Air conditioning units which are less likely to spread viruses, droplets and particles.

It is important to remember that if your air conditioning unit re-circulates air, you must **turn off** the 'recirculation' function to prevent the spread of viruses.

**If in doubt, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team for further advice.**