Bukovy Dental

Location: Thunder Bay, ON
Contractor: Keating Inc.
Price Representative: E.H. Price – Thunder Bay

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada there were several provincial healthcare directives for dental offices to upgrade their HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality, and in doing so, reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission through the air. Dental offices pose a high risk for COVID-19 transmission based on the aerosols generated during typical dental procedures.

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, the CDC and provincial guidelines suggested that dental operatories in which aerosol-generating procedures take place allow “fallow time” between procedures. Fallow time allows the operator to be cleared of aerosols between patients and is determined by the number of air changes per hour (ACH) in the space and the time required to achieve 99.9% removal of airborne contaminants. Most dental offices have only 2-4 ACH, which requires 208-104 minutes of fallow time, significantly reducing the number of patients that a dentist can treat each day.

In order to reduce the number of airborne pathogens in the space and significantly reduce fallow time, Combination Exhaust and Recirculating Flow Fan Filter Units (FFU) from Price were installed in Dr. Bukovy’s dental clinic. Combination Flow FFUs draw air in through the perforated face, pass it through a HEPA filter to remove 99.99% of contaminants, and then discharge the air through a dual outlet so that a portion of the airflow may be exhausted outdoors while the remainder is recirculated within the space. Recirculation within the space provides the dual benefit of increased air changes to reduce the concentration of airborne contaminants, as well as eliminating the need for additional makeup air, and therefore a larger air-handler in retrofit applications.

“The speed of response in developing the Combination Flow FFU allowed dental offices to respond quickly, begin seeing patients and get back on their feet, while still considering the safety of patients and staff.” – Tony Baldassi, E.H. Price Thunder Bay

Bukovy Dental is located in a renovated home, which meant that installation of industrial equipment could have been difficult, but the Hospital Grade Mounting Frame (HGMF), allowed for seamless installation in the sheetrock ceiling.

“I’m excited about this product. It’s like a one-stop-shop with ease of installation and directions that are involved. It’s really simple to install.” – Rob Turner, Keating Inc.

The Combination Flow FFU was the perfect product to upgrade Bukovy Dental for improved indoor air quality during the pandemic. This solution resulted in an increase from 4 ACH to over 40 ACH which decreased fallow time to just 10 minutes which is less than the time required to physically clean the space between patients. This will allow Dr. Bukovy to prioritize staff and patient safety, run his clinic efficiently, and see at least 66% more patients than would have been possible without upgrading his HVAC system.

“The result was fantastic, and the patients and staff both feel safe.” – Dr. Brian Bukovy, Bukovy Dental

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