

SOUTH JERSEY

Biz ask the expert



Dr. Richard Lynch, **Environmental Safety Management**

What can businesses do to prevent COVID spread as they reopen? One expert has been helping area businesses do just that for the past 18 months.

What has the pandemic been like for ESMCorp?

Since 1992, we've been the area's leading Certified Industrial Hygiene consulting firm specializing in indoor air quality, mold testing, infection control and chemical hazard management for schools, colleges, manufacturing, health care, commercial and retail environments.

In March 2020, we made a presentation to Burlington County Chamber of Commerce on making workplaces safer during the novel coronavirus outbreak. Since then, we've worked with schools and colleges, hospitals, commercial and manufacturing sites, and county governments to reduce COVID-19 transmission risk, which includes ventilation, cleaning and disinfection protocol development, and safety management systems. We've also authored three peer-reviewed scientific journal articles for controlling COVID-19 in nursing homes, schools and other settings.

Increasingly, clients contact us regarding the steps they should consider to improve air quality and reduce COVID risk. Business owners are barraged by filter companies saying, 'Buy this one!' and there's no real way to know what's right. We assessed much of the marketplace with respect to filters and know what's appropriate for various settings.

How do you approach your jobs?

We start with site inspections, including a review of the layout, operations, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Ventilation system settings and air-flow management, combined with ensuring effective filtration and outdoor air introduction, are among the most important mechanisms for diluting and removing respiratory droplets and aerosols. It's more important than ever that workplaces ensure their ventilation systems protect building occupants, especially since the delta variant is more infectious via inhalation than the original strain: don't assume...inspect and verify.

There's no one size that fits all, and we work hard to develop approaches that suit the dynamics of each worksite.

How do you help clients meet their needs?

We work closely with them to fully understand their challenges and goals. That's the art of industrial hygiene, and why we emphasize understanding the scientific basis by which infectious organisms are transmitted.

What makes ESMCorp qualified to do this?

I hold a Ph.D. in public health with a minor in epidemiology and am a former Rutgers University professor of industrial hygiene and public health. I am also a Certified Industrial Hygienist and Certified Microbial Consultant, and a New Jersey Department of Health-licensed indoor environmental consultant. My partner—my son Richard A. Lynch—holds an MBA in environmental sustainability, a bachelor's in physics and is also a Certified Indoor Environmental Consultant. We are relentlessly committed to making sure we're scientifically prepared, listening to our clients' needs and applying the lessons learned from other worksites for our customers' benefit.

Environmental Safety Management Corp

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