

Press Release

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EHP releases information and guidance on air pollution and respiratory infections such as COVID-19, including a review of scientific studies, Q&A blog post, air improvement video

McMURRAY, PA, June 3, 2020 – The Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP) has released information concerning the connection between air pollution and respiratory infections, such as COVID-19. The information includes a review of scientific studies that have explored this public health relationship. Titled “**Air Pollution and Respiratory Infections: Reviewing the Science,**” this literature review may be found [here](#).

“Numerous studies have shown a correlation between air pollution and respiratory infections,” said EHP’s public health nurse **Sarah Rankin**, MPH, RN. “Evidence shows that exposure to air pollution may be a factor in the severity of a respiratory infection, like COVID-19. Other evidence points to the possibility that this exposure might increase the susceptibility to getting a respiratory infection in the first place.”

Also included in the information is a blog post titled “**Air Pollution and Respiratory Infections: Q&A,**” which summarizes EHP’s understanding of the air pollution and respiratory infection relationship. Additionally, the post offers ways people suffering the impacts of poor air quality can reduce their risks and possibly save lives. The blog post may be read [here](#).

As another way of helping impacted residents to improve air quality, EHP has produced a short video explaining how to make an affordable and effective air filter using a box fan and a HEPA-certified furnace filter. The video can be viewed [here](#).

“Providing at-risk people with public health information rooted in science is what EHP does every day,” said EHP’s executive director **Alison L. Steele**. “We endeavor to help communities and families overcome the challenges presented by pollution from the oil and gas industry and other industrial sources.”

About Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project

The [Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) is a nonprofit public health organization that defends public health in the face of oil and gas development. We provide frontline communities with timely monitoring, interpretation and guidance. We engage diverse stakeholders: health professionals, researchers, community organizers, public servants, and others. We do so because knowledge protects health.