

A study to understand whether far-UVC lights can reduce airborne viruses (disinfect) and in turn reduce respiratory and other infections in nursing homes

The name of the study is “Do far-UVC light devices reduce the incidence of influenza-like illnesses, respiratory illnesses, and COVID-19 infections in long-term care facilities?”

What is the study about?

Northwood is participating in a study lead by Dr. Rockwood to understand the effectiveness of using far-UVC lights to help reduce airborne viruses and support a better disinfection process in nursing homes. The far-UVC lights use **low levels of ultraviolet light to reduce viruses in the air**. Far-UVC is 222 nm in wavelength and it has all the virus-killing advantages of 254 nm mercury vapour lamps (traditional UVC lamps), but without being harmful to skin or eyes.

Who is doing the study?

A team of researchers in Nova Scotia from Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia Health in partnership with the Department of Health and Wellness are doing this study in two nursing homes in Nova Scotia: Northwood Halifax and Windsor Elms. The study lead is Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, a leading researcher in the area of health among elderly populations.

How is the study being done?

The study is being conducted in two facilities: Northwood Halifax and Windsor Elms. We will use a flip of a coin approach to assign whether far-UVC lamps or regular fluorescent lamps will be installed within assigned neighbourhoods in each facilities. Lamps will be installed in common areas such as hallways, corner sitting areas and dining areas. They will not be installed in residents’ rooms. The lights are the size of a smoke detector and will be mounted on the ceiling.

The lights are dim and do not produce any heat. They are considered to be safe for humans. However, daily monitoring will be completed to ensure resident and staff safety.

Before beginning the study, we will invite residents, substitute decision makers and staff to participate in interviews with a member of the research team. Interviews will

be conducted with residents, substitute decision makers and staff, to understand important considerations in doing this study, such as installing the lamps, fears or concerns and overall considerations to help us ensure residents' quality of life or care is not impacted by the study.

Residents, substitute decision makers and staff will receive orientation/educational sessions to provide information about any possible effects from the far-UVC lamps and review monitoring for symptoms such as skin or eye irritation. A study nurse will monitor daily screening results throughout the study.

How is the safety of residents and staff being addressed in this study?

Residents and staff will be monitored daily to assess their comfort and safety. The study nurse will monitor the results of daily screening including skin and eye assessment.

Throughout the study, an advisory council will be kept up to date on the study progress and we will ensure concerns are addressed.

More Questions?

I would like to learn more about this study because:

- I am interested in participating in the qualitative interviews.
- I am a resident, a substitute decision maker or I am providing care for residents in the nursing home and may be exposed to the study light.
- I am generally interested in this study and want to learn more.

Please contact:

- Coordinator: Stancy Singh Stancy4.Singh@nshealth.ca
- Northwood Study Nurse: Ann Mann at ann.mann@nwood.ns.ca

How can I participate in this study?

- In the qualitative part of the study to provide your thoughts and opinions about the study through an interview with a member of the research team.
- Participating as a resident, substitute decision maker or staff member of the nursing home.

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- Coordinator: Stancy Singh Stancy4.Singh@nshealth.ca
- Northwood Study Nurse: Ann Mann at ann.mann@nwood.ns.ca
- Northwood: Stancy Singh Stancy4.Singh@nshealth.ca

About far-UVC light

Far-UVC light kills viruses by damaging the viral cell layer. Far-UVC light is 222 nm in wave length and lab studies have shown that this is not harmful to humans.

Continuous and low dose far-UVC light technology is emerging as a safe and viable option to enhancing disinfection indoor environments. For more information on this technology, please go to <https://faruv.com/>

Contact Information

To learn more information about this study please contact

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