

Air Sampling During Healthcare Construction: When It's Used and What It Proves

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Air sampling answers a specific question - is containment holding, did an exposure happen, is this area clear? Particle counting monitors containment in near-real time; microbial sampling identifies organisms but takes days and has no universal pass/fail limit. No baseline, no value.

USE IT FOR

- Baseline before work near high-risk units.
- Scoping a containment failure.
- Supporting an infection investigation.
- Defined clearance questions with criteria set in advance.

READ IT HONESTLY

- Interpret comparatively: inside vs outside, during vs baseline.
- Species matter more than totals.
- One sample proves little either way.

FIELD QUESTION

What does routine construction monitoring use?

Pressure monitoring - continuous and documented. Air sampling is the targeted tool, not the routine one.

Sampling without a question is expensive noise.

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.

healthcarefacilityhub.org/air-sampling-during-healthcare-construction/

Free field sheet from Healthcare Facility Hub. The live page is the current version - this sheet was generated October 2026. Scan the code to open the full article.

