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# ROCIS Low-Cost Monitoring Project

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## WELCOME to COHORT 60!

With 59 monitoring cohorts to date, the ROCIS team and our participants have learned a great deal about low-cost monitors and the relevance of the information they provide. We have developed systems to help interpret and visualize data, as well as to offer customized, actionable steps to improve indoor air quality. As participants, you continue to help the ROCIS LCMP team to improve our process, feedback, and the value to you and your household. Your data helps us better understand the potential and best applications for both behavioral and technical interventions to reduce particles. We also monitor for other pollutants—carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and radon—which can reveal ongoing health risks from your house or the appliances within it. Your participation helps build the base of knowledge to improve the quality of air in our homes and workplaces and reduce the effects of poor outdoor air quality.

We hope you find this as interesting as we do. By collecting this information, we are able to offer better guidance on the use of low-cost monitors and the resolution of air quality problems.

If you have questions or want more information, contact:

General Questions: [info@rocis.org](mailto:info@rocis.org)

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Jessica Kester (*meeting support, online resources*) [Jessica.Kester@psu.edu](mailto:Jessica.Kester@psu.edu)

Thank you again for the investment you are making!

The ROCIS LCMP team—Linda, Rob, Sam & Jessie

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

#### 1) Understand How to Use Monitors to Empower Occupants

- ✓ What monitors/visualization create the most appropriate call to action in reducing indoor exposure?
- ✓ What process is effective for supporting and maintaining occupant engagement?

#### 2) Collect Baseline Data

- ✓ How do outdoor particles affect indoor particle counts?
- ✓ How do house/building and mechanical system characteristics influence the indoor/outdoor particle count relationships?

#### 3) Explore the Impact of Behavioral and Technical Interventions

- ✓ Can low-cost monitors increase the effectiveness of the operation of a home's filtration systems?
- ✓ When is it appropriate to use a central air handler and high MERV filter to reduce particles in a home, and what determines/predicts the range of effectiveness?

#### 4) Support and Create Champions!

### VIRTUAL COHORT ASSUMPTIONS

- All online meetings are 75 minutes
- All meeting times are the same: first at 7 PM and repeated at noon the next day
  - 7 PM meetings: Monday & Thursday
  - Noon meetings: Tuesday & Friday
- All meetings are recorded and best of each is shared
- Participation in each meeting is either “required” (**black font**) or “recommended” (**red font**)
- Each meeting will provide time for questions/discussion

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## **Prior to Kick-off Meeting Thursday, August 15, 7 PM/Friday, August 16, 12 PM (noon)**

Complete surveys: ROCIS Cohort 60 Registration (by **Monday, August 5**) & House Characterization Survey (by **Wednesday, August 7**)

### **And optionally:**

1. Join our [private group](#) on Facebook and follow ROCIS on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#)
2. Download *Smell Pittsburgh* App

## **By Saturday (end of night), Saturday, August 17**

- 1) Complete and sign Terms of Use (on front of clipboard)
- 2) Place and plug in monitors (one Dylus needs to be in a protected outdoor location w/ power)
- 3) Take photos of (a) signed Terms of Use and (b) equipment as set up in monitoring locations
- 4) Upload photos of (a) your signed Terms of Use, (b) equipment in set up location, and (c) your head shot or your household for our virtual group photo
- 5) Confirm with us (by text or email) that everything is set up and working

## **Ongoing Monitoring**

- 1) Daily monitor checks (5-7 minutes)
  - Week 1 & 2: Check all monitors twice a day (5 out of 7 days)
  - Weeks 3 & 4: Check monitors a minimum of once a day (5 out of 7 days)
- 2) Keep a diary/log of activity in your home/workplace daily (5-7 minutes)
- 3) Collect data and upload to ROCIS weekly (15-30 minutes)
  - Download Dylus data
  - Send Log/Incident report with manually collected readings of radon, CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>
- 4) Continue to monitor and experiment! (weeks 2, 3, & 4)
  - Change household behavior or equipment operation to explore the impact. Examples include increasing runtime of air handler, portable air cleaner, or kitchen range hood; cooking on back burners and covering pans when cooking.

## **Wrap-up Meeting Monday, September 16, 7 PM/Tuesday, September 17, 12 PM (noon)**

- 1) Repack equipment and kit and make arrangements for pick-up
- 2) Complete close-out survey

## **PROPOSED SCHEDULE & TOPICS (bold & black font indicate required sessions)**

Attendance in all of the sessions is encouraged as you will gain more from participating

- All Monday/Thursday evening sessions are 7:00-8:15 PM
- Tuesday/Friday daytime sessions are 12:00-1:15 PM

### **8/1 & 8/2: Intro Webinar**

### **8/15 & 8/16: Cohort Kick-off**

8/19 & 8/20: Check-in

### **8/22 & 8/23: Dylus Data Downloading**

8/26 & 8/27: 'Good' Numbers?

8/29 & 8/30: Behavioral Interventions

**BREAK: No meeting on Labor Day, 9/2**

**9/5 & 9/6: Filtration Interventions**

9/9 & 9/10: Accessing Online Resources

9/12 & 9/13: Health Impacts of Particles and Your Questions

**9/16 & 9/17: Wrap-up Meeting**