

Customer Story:

Paving the Way to Safer Schools



 School District

 Moss Landing, CA

4 Elementary Schools:
9 units

1 Middle School:
2 units

1 High School:
5 units

2 Alternative Schools:
2 units

2 District Offices:
2 units

The Challenge

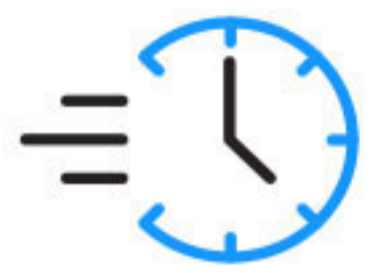
North Monterey County Unified School District (NMCUSD) is a mid-sized public school district located in Moss Landing, CA. Like many other districts across the nation, North Monterey County confronted multiple challenges during the coronavirus pandemic, including the need to create safer environments and build trust and confidence amongst its staff, students and community so they felt safe returning to school.

As the district prepared for school reopening, Rick Diaz, Director of Facilities, was tasked with implementing effective safety and disinfection protocols, fast. Initially, NMCUSD made investments in additional part-time custodial staff to apply a chemical-based disinfection agent to all high-touch surfaces. However, as manual disinfection is time- and labor-intensive, error-prone, and does not address airborne pathogens, the district continued exploring alternative disinfection methods.



The Solution

In July 2020, Rick learned of R-Zero's touchless UV-C disinfection solution, Arc. UV-C light is the gold standard for disinfection in hospitals, used for over 100 years to destroy bacteria, viruses, and molds on surfaces and in the air. It is also a chemical-free disinfection solution, something critically important in a school environment. Rick saw a few specific benefits of R-Zero's solution for his district:



Speed

Arc can destroy over 99.99% of pathogens in 1,000 sq ft in 7 minutes. Rick estimated this speed would reduce the time to disinfect classrooms by one third and even allow for additional cycles in high-traffic areas such as the nurse's office and teachers' lounge throughout the day.



Operational Efficiency

The device is easy to maneuver from room to room and extremely simple to operate, requiring less than two minutes of touch time per cycle. This meant the district's custodial staff could be productive in another room while the device was running.



Visibility and Compliance Tracking

Arc's built-in software allows for visibility into what was disinfected and when. For the first time, maintenance leaders could track location-based usage and monitor disinfection compliance from a simple, easy-to-use dashboard.

The Implementation

After one conversation and an on-site demo, Rick was ready to commit to a 20-unit purchase for his district. While the immediate catalyst was COVID-19, he saw benefits beyond the pandemic in reducing the spread of seasonal flu, norovirus, mold, and other pathogens common to schools. Because Arc is eligible for CARES Act funding, North Monterey County was able to secure the budget and push the purchase through board approval within one month of Rick's introduction to R-Zero.

R-Zero's white-glove delivery included setup of the devices and on-site training for the district's maintenance leaders and custodial staff. R-Zero's U.S.-based customer support team has also worked with North Monterey County to design customized protocols for their buildings. Rick has since introduced R-Zero to 3 other districts.