



PHILIPS

Case Study

UV-C disinfection luminaires



Sint-Pieter University Medical Center

Several departments of the Sint-Pieter University Medical Center (UMC) in Brussels have been using UV-C light disinfection for more than 10 years as part of the hospital's infection prevention policy.



“There are sufficient scientific studies endorsing the effectiveness of UV-C as an air disinfection solution. As a university hospital, we need to take a pioneering role in using these types of innovations to protect our patients as much as possible, whether against COVID or other infectious diseases.”

Jacky Fafchamps,
Technical director, Sint-Pieter UMC

Challenge

The Sint-Pieter University Medical Center, part of the IRIS network of Brussels public hospitals, is known for the quality of its services and care. It is a community hospital where everyone can access high-quality treatment. As a university hospital, they embrace new developments, treatment methods, and technologies, constantly striving to maintain and improve the quality of care and medical wellbeing of patients. Which is why, 10 years ago, they chose to adopt UV-C disinfection technology.

The right light

Using UV-C light embedded in Philips luminaires, the Sint-Pieter UMC is able to disinfect the air in rooms that carry a high risk of infection. It was the then chief of infectious diseases, Michele Gerard, who was also a member of the Superior Council of Public Health, who took the decision to embrace UV-C based on scientific results showing the effectiveness of the technology.

Jacky Fafchamps, Sint-Pieter's technical director, explains, "For more than 10 years we have been using UV-C disinfection lighting in various departments to our complete satisfaction as part of our infection prevention policy. The health, and therefore the safety, of our patients is central to our daily work."



Air disinfection

UV-C technology has been used for decades to control viral outbreaks such as tuberculosis, measles, or influenza. "There are plenty of scientific studies endorsing the effectiveness of UV-C technology as an air disinfection solution. As a university hospital, we should take a pioneering role in using this kind of innovation to protect our patients as much as possible, whether against COVID-19 or other infectious diseases. Nowadays, this extra protection has even become a necessity," said Jacky Fafchamps.



Philips upper air luminaires

The university hospital uses Philips UV-C upper air devices in various indoor spaces, such as corridors and waiting rooms of the pneumology, radiology, and COVID and isolation departments. Recently, the emergency departments for adults and children started using them too. A key feature of the UV-C luminaires is that they can still be used while people are present in the room, allowing for continuous disinfection. Air flows by natural convection to the upper air layers of the room where the UV-C light then inactivates the viruses and bacteria. Research shows that these types of fixtures inactivate 99.99% of the SARS CoV-2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19, in just 10 minutes¹.

¹ According to the results of a laboratory test performed by Innovative Bioanalysis, a CAP, CLIA, AABB certified safety reference laboratory, in an area with adequate air circulation.



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