The Safest Place to Sing and Hear Air Singing in the World (except outside!)

Ed Nardell, MD, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School Air Disinfection Expert *and Cabaret Singer!*

The Napoleon Room and the entire Club Café in Boston is now equipped with the latest in Far UV air disinfection technology to make gathering, talking, eating, drinking, and even singing as safe as possible. No technology is 100% effective airborne infection so mask wearing when not eating and drinking is strongly recommended. Of course, proof of vaccination is required to enter Club Café, and a booster shot is recommended.

"Far UV" is invisible ultraviolet light at the 222 nm wavelength. This relatively new technology has the remarkable properties of being highly effective at rapidly inactivating viruses and bacteria in air while being harmless for room occupants because it cannot penetrate even the thin layer of fluid covering the eyeball, much less the outer dead layer of skin. Unlike longer wavelength UV in sunlight, which can penetrate human eye and skin surface to cause inflammation, sunburn, and skin cancer, Far UV is both much safer and far more germicidal. There are no short or long-term effects to exposure. UV exposure levels in the room are well within the official limits allowed for 8-hours continuous exposure per day.

Tiny airborne droplets containing viruses are penetrated by Far UV and "inactivated" – the preferred term rather than "killed" since viruses are not technically alive. Studies have shown that the levels of Far UV in this room will inactivate virus at rates equivalent to 30 or more air room exchanges per hour – compared to the 6 to 12 air changes recommended by CDC for hospital infectious disease isolation rooms. This means that any virus generated in this room will likely be rapidly inactivated before they can be inhaled and cause infection.

For more information, watch this TED interview with Dr. David Brenner of Columbia University on the safety and efficacy of 222 nm Far UV: https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/news/far-uvc-light-safely-kills-airborne-coronaviruses

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