Sixty seconds on . . . hanging around

Abi Rimmer

Is this about young people loitering on street corners?
No, I’m afraid this isn’t about crowds of young people tik toking outside the off licence. In fact, it’s another government push to stop covid-19 “hanging around.”

No more hands, face, space?
The advice on handwashing, wearing face coverings in crowded spaces, and maintaining social distancing remain the same.

This new campaign is about demonstrating the importance of ventilation to reduce the risks of catching covid-19 this winter.

My windows are already open
That’s great, and you’re right that we’ve already been told by the government to let in fresh air to reduce the spread of the virus. However, this new campaign shows us in a video exactly what the benefits of that can be.

Sounds like a breath of fresh air
I guess it is if you’re hungry for more information about stopping the spread of covid-19. The health department says that the film clearly shows how airflow affects the movement of airborne particles indoors in relation to covid-19.

How?
Put together by scientists from the universities of Cambridge and Leeds, in collaboration with the government, the video uses what look like high street mannequins who exhale smoke which represents covid-19 particles. With the window open the smoke disperses much more quickly.

But you’re letting all the heat out
I know, but the good news is that according to the video the colder it is outside the less time you need to open your windows for. “In fact,” the video says, “opening a window for a few minutes every hour can significantly reduce the risk of passing on covid-19 indoors when you have visitors.”

Brrrr. Sounds chilly
Yes. Maybe I won’t be wishing for a white Christmas after all.