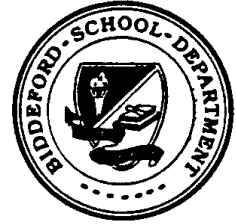


From the Offices of
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESPONSE TO INDOOR AIR QUALITY COMPLAINTS Biddeford High School Renovation Project

[December 3, 2010, Biddeford Maine] In response to indoor air quality (IAQ) complaints associated with the high school renovation project, the school department has implemented response actions to address concerns of parents, students, and staff. The response actions stem from the results of recent IAQ testing, general complaints from students and teachers, and unidentified reactions experienced by 2 students.

The school department initiated IAQ testing in selected classrooms to evaluate general air quality. The testing performed in two classrooms revealed the presence of mold spores and dust (particulate matter). The presence of mold and fungi spores is not an immediate cause for alarm since spores are a part of our everyday environment. The testing warranted additional study to determine the source. Further investigation indicates that the most likely source of mold and fungi spores is the movement of settled dust in and around the room heaters. Spores enter buildings and may accumulate over time just like they do in our homes. At this time, there is no indication that the school is unsafe or unfit for occupancy. Although the test results are acceptable, actions have been taken to further reduce potential concerns. The mayor and superintendent of schools held a meeting Thursday, December 2, 2010, with key personnel to review the issue as an added level of safety. Several members of the press attended the meeting.

In general, the response to date has included expanded testing, enhanced work practices to reduce dust generation, better separation of the construction zone from the occupied areas, and enhanced cleaning. In addition, we will review and monitor complaints to see if patterns develop over time. A detailed list of response actions is attached. We have also contacted the State Bureau of General Services as a "second look" at the current response plan. According to Larry Maré of the Bureau of General Services, "the school is taking all the appropriate steps."

We are taking this issue very seriously and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Current Response Actions to Address IAQ Complaints

1. Ledgewood Construction will monitor activities to reduce dust generation and will enhance the barrier between the construction zones and occupied spaces. In addition, the access points will include separation vestibules, high efficiency air filtering where appropriate, and enhanced housekeeping.
2. The work schedule will be reviewed and adjusted to minimize construction traffic into the occupied areas during classroom occupancy.
3. Classrooms will be cleaned to reduce existing dust levels and will be monitored closely to address dust build up as the construction proceeds.
4. Hallways will be cleaned during the school day to reduce general dust accumulation.
5. The School Dude Work Order System will be used to report room cleanliness concerns. This will assist in identifying problem areas where targeted cleaning may be necessary.
6. Additional testing will be performed to characterize levels of crystalline silica from concrete cutting operations that may be in the dust.
7. An evaluation of visits to the school nurse this year will be performed to compare number of visits and reported symptoms to visits and symptoms from last year.
8. The school has notified WorkWell Occupational Health of the concerns.
9. The school department will work with individual healthcare providers and parents should specific health issues be identified.
10. The response plan will be monitored closely.