

Green Meadow Air Quality Concern Debrief 01.24.2019

Air Quality Concerns/Activity Timeline:

- 9/6/18 - A staff member at Green Meadow Elementary School notified the principle that they had an individual health issue related to possible mold exposure. Out of an abundance of concern for the staff and students the administration initiated an investigation.
- 9/7/18 - School Administration and Facilities Department began to discuss and investigate the situation.
- 9/9/2018 - School Administration provided a communication to the school community of a possible mold concern that was brought to their attention and stated that additional testing would be completed.
- 9/9/2018 - Public Works director contacted the local health agent and the Department of Public Health to schedule an indoor air quality inspection. Facilities department completed a visual walkthrough of the building to look for signs of active mold growth, none were found.
- 9/12/2018 - DPH completed an indoor air quality inspection of the Green Meadow School. DPH inspector met with school administration and the staff member who had originally brought up the mold concern. DPH stated that there was not a public health risk related to mold. No active mold growth was found. Verbal recommendations were provided to School and Facilities staff. Verbal recommendations included replacement of specific ceiling tiles, including one with dark staining located in a closet. DPH also recommended against performing airborne mold spore testing as there is no standard permissible exposure levels for mold spores. DPH stated a written report would be provided to the Administration in 2-4 weeks.
- 9/14/2018 - Public Works scheduled ASAP Environmental to test for airborne mold spores.
- 9/17/2018 - ASAP Environmental completed airborne testing for mold spores.
- 9/17/2018 - The School Community was notified on social media and the school district website.
- 9/18/2018 - ASAP Environmental provided results of airborne mold spore testing, which indicated similar levels of mold were founding inside the building as found outside. Also that the same types of mold found inside the building were also found outside the building. "No evidence of 'toxic black molds' detected".
- 9/19/2018 - Another communication to the school community through social media and the school district website.
- 9/20/2018 - Information was shared with the public at the School Committee meeting. A Q&A opportunity was provided.
- 9/21/2018 - DPH emailed their written report to Maynard Public Works and informed the Town that hard copies were also mailed.
- 9/25/2018 - Town of Maynard and the School Principal received a hardcopy of the DPH report in the mail, document was date stamped "Received Sept 25, 2018."
- 9/27/2018 - Another communication to the school community through social media and the school district website.
- 10/25/18 - Teachers union hired Mike Sireci to conduct additional IAQ testing at GM.
- 12/21/18 - Mike Sireci's IAQ Report was delivered to Dr. Gerardi. Report included information from previous IAQ reports and the data concurred with the previous assessments.

Investigation results provided:

- The Department of Public Health (DPH) has indicated that there is not a "Public Health Hazard" in both of their inspections conducted at this facility, in 2011 and their most recent inspection on September 12, 2018.
- The environmental consultant who completed the airborne mold spore testing stated in an email to the Town that "no evidence of toxic black mold" was found.
- The number of mold spores found outside is similar to that found inside the facility.

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- DPH and the environmental consultant provided recommended maintenance activities and operational best practices for improving indoor air quality.
- MTA Consultants report confirms DPH and Environmental Reports. Additional information provided through a survey of staff regarding respiratory concerns

Continuing activities and recommendations that have been implemented as of today:

- Ceiling tiles have been replaced throughout the building. Replaced stained: 1E, 2E, 4E, 5E, (CLOSET AREAS); Pre-K/Kindergarten hallway, Installed Missing: 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G.
- Plumbing has been inspected.
- All exhaust fans have been inspected, 7C/B unit repaired. All in working order
- All uninvent units have been inspected. All other uninvent unit are in working order. Filters last changed summer 2018, next scheduled filter change February 2019.
- Green Meadow Building inspected for active roof leaks as a result of observations by faculty and staff. Roof leak reported/observed in 3C, roofing contractor notified. \$27,000 in roof patching and repairs were completed in 2017 & 2018 at Green Meadow.
- Town and School administration will be requesting \$100,000 at Town Meeting for building roof repairs.
- High spore count locations auto scrubbed and cleaned with bleach solution: Foyer Entrance, Staff development room.
- Ongoing: cleaning/dusting personal fan units in classrooms.
- 10/16/18 – Roof repairs were made in areas where leaking was observed.
- 10/18/18 – All area rugs in classrooms were shampooed and extracted on a weekend – building wide. Rug alternatives have been piloted in several classrooms.
- 10/18/18 - Ductwork for the cafeteria/auditorium was vacuumed out in the basement
- 11/18/18 – Waltham Services Pest Control was contacted for pest control in pre-school classrooms. It was recommended that the food items in the affected classrooms to be stored properly in air tight containers.
- A small auto-scrubber has been used on the tile floors in the classrooms in addition to the usual dry and wet mopping. The auto scrubber has been used in areas without furniture.
- Air purifiers (four) that were requested have been ordered.

Recommendations being considered for the future:

- Due to the difficulty with replacing the older style single 12x12 ceiling the Facilities department is exploring solutions to replace the 12x12 ceilings in the 6 kindergarten classrooms with standard 24x24 drop ceiling system. This effort will require some design and cost estimating. A project of this scale would require an extended shutdown or summer break, installation if financially feasible.
- The facilities department is reviewing options for replacing the current uninvent filters with filters that have a higher MERV rating.
- Town and School administration will be requesting \$100,000 at Town Meeting for building roof repairs.