

September 8, 2018

Dear Southern Huntingdon County Families:

In early August, visible mold was present in two classrooms at Rockhill Elementary and five classrooms at the High School/Middle School. SHCSD facilities staff industriously re-cleaned the rooms and the District contracted with Cumberland Analytical Laboratories to perform an Indoor Air Quality Survey, consisting of the collection of air samples for airborne fungal contaminants. All mold tests yielded safe air quality results.

Since school has been in session, a HS/MS teacher reported the presence of mold in Room 224 on August 28. District officials immediately reassigned the teacher and students to another location while cleaning and environmental testing occurred in the classroom of concern. The IAQ Survey reflected safe air quality results on the second test.

On August 30, mold was identified in Room 112, a small room used as an office area, and tested positive for mold spores with elevated levels. The affected room was closed to students and employees for intensified cleaning and laboratory retesting. A second air-quality survey of this same area again revealed elevated mold levels. Since September 6, Room 112 has been under remediation. All fan coil air filters and ceiling tiles that may collect moisture have been replaced and vents cleaned or replaced throughout the building. Because the other six rooms produced safe air quality results, maintenance and the environmental company are treating the problem as specific to one particular area. No additional reports of visible mold have been detected since August 30, and Cumberland Analytical used a handheld air tester throughout the entire building, which did not reveal additional areas of poor air quality (This device did not test for mold).

As SHCSD contends with above average moisture levels, we will retest Room 112 as well as test additional areas exhibiting no visible mold to ensure a safe environment for our students and employees. Comprehensive air quality testing is scheduled to occur at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, September 10, 2018 in the HS/MS. If elevated mold spore findings are localized, classes will shift to other areas of the building. If elevated mold spore counts are identified throughout the building, school will close until the problem is rectified.

As a precautionary measure, additional testing will occur in all three elementary buildings. If you have any questions, please call me at the District office or email dnorthcraft@shcsd.org. I will communicate any updates to you as they become available.
Sincerely,

Dwayne Northcraft, SHC Superintendent of Schools