



Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools

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Dear PHS Parents and Staff:

In late September we became aware of the possibility that the rubberized floors in the Parsippany High School main and auxiliary gymnasiums contained mercury. Many manufacturers of this type of flooring used mercury in the manufacturing of rubberized, polyurethane floors to keep them flexible over time.

As a result of this information, we contacted the district's environmental consulting company, AERO Environmental Services, Inc., who recommended we conduct bulk sampling for suspected mercury in the polyurethane/rubber flooring. The sampling was sent to EMSL Analytical, Inc. in Cinnaminson, New Jersey who conducted the analysis for total mercury concentrations.

On Friday, October 6, 2017, we received the report from AERO Environmental Services, Inc. indicating that the floor samples from both gym floors contained mercury. On Friday, October 13, 2017 and Saturday, October 14, 2017, an air mercury vapor study was performed by AERO Environmental. This air mercury vapor study was performed with ventilation units running in the gyms and then with no ventilation units operating in the gyms. On Monday, October 16, 2017, we received the results of the vapor study. While the report indicated the presence of mercury vapors, the airborne mercury levels tested below the mercury guidelines (as per the U.S. Center for Disease Control Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the NJ Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act Permissible Exposure Limit). The gyms may be used on a daily basis with the ventilation system operating in occupied mode.

The amount of mercury vapor in the air can be affected by ambient temperature and ventilation. Higher temperatures and reduced air movement increase the concentration of the mercury vapor. All ventilation systems in all areas of Parsippany High School will remain on. The ventilation system in the affected areas are independent of the other ventilation systems in the building.

The district will work with AERO Environmental Services, Inc. to monitor the air quality in Parsippany High School for the remainder of the school year as we explore an appropriate course of action. We have consulted with the Township Health Officer and our School Physician, and will continue to work closely with them as this project unfolds. It is our intent to be transparent and share information with the school community. Information about the gymnasium floors can be found on our district website at www.pthsd.k12.nj.us.

The Board of Education and District Leadership are committed to ensuring the safety of our students, staff and visitors within the Parsippany High School District. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Dr. Barbara Sargent