

PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Q&A Regarding Mercury at PHS, CMS and Littleton

Q: What is Mercury?

A: Mercury is an element. Its chemical symbol is Hg and it has been used for centuries in various ways, including in products like batteries and thermometers and in medicinal applications, due to its antifungal and antibacterial properties. Mercury poisoning is frequently in the news associated with the consumption of predatory fish. Mercury has been identified with neurological conditions as well as respiratory conditions.

Q: How is mercury found in nature?

A: Mercury is a liquid at room temperature. Mercury is colorless and odorless in vapor form and is a naturally occurring element in the environment.

Q: Is there some additional type of ventilation available to help circulate the gym?

A: In the PHS gym there are 4 air handler HV units and in the PHS auxiliary gym there are 2 exhaust fan units. Each of these units are ventilating and circulating the air in their respective gyms.

In the CMS Aux gym there are 2 air handler HV units and 2 exhaust fans ventilating and circulating the air.

In the Littleton gym there are 2 air handler HV units and 2 exhaust fans ventilating and circulating the air.

Q: Can the floor be tested during the winter months when the heat is on?

A: Yes, AERO Environmental will continue to test throughout the school year. The next test will be when the heat is on.

Q: Some of the teachers plan on being medically tested; can this day be covered? Will the test be paid for?

A: Medical tests should be covered through a staff member's health plan.

Q: Does the district plan on replacing the PHS gym floor? If so, what is the timeline?

A: Replacement of the gymnasium floors will be carefully reviewed as part of the 2018-19 School Budget preparation. Currently, the plan is to keep the floor intact for the remainder of this school year.

Q: Some teachers asked about keeping the gym doors open to better circulate the gym; however, part of our school safety policy is keeping doors closed.

A: Schools should maintain a secure environment and not open or prop doors. The ventilation in the gymnasiums, as evidenced by air sampling, has been effective in maintaining appropriate air quality.