

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Ms. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
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TO: Francis A. Desmares School Community
FROM: Kari McGann, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: September 5, 2018
RE: ***Follow up Communication Francis A. Desmares Elementary School Indoor Air Quality***

The health, comfort, and learning environment of students and staff are important aspects of Flemington-Raritan Regional School District's mission. Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is strongly committed to the health and comfort of our students and staff, as well the environmental quality in the school. It is important for all that our schools provide a safe, comfortable, and productive environment for our students and staff so that we achieve our core mission—educating students. Our district follows the guidelines by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prevent as many indoor air quality problems (IAQ) as possible and respond to any IAQ issues that may arise. For more information visit the EPA link [here](#).

In a letter dated, August 22, I shared with the community ([link here](#)) that to be proactive and ensure all of our buildings had quality indoor air for students and staff, strategic sample testing would occur throughout all our buildings by RK Environmental Analysis Company. RK Environmental Analysis Company was contracted to provide results that all buildings in the district had indoor air qualities that met recommended levels. Strategic sample testing for Francis A. Desmares was scheduled as soon as possible and occurred on Thursday, August 23. In another letter dated, August 28, I shared with the Francis A. Desmares Elementary School Community ([link here](#)) that the indoor air quality in the building was less than ideal and thus the building had to be closed for immediate remediation.

Maintenance staff was informed about the increased levels of moisture at Francis A. Desmares Elementary School and have been making the necessary adjustments in a prompt manner. Staff has been working diligently to provide and maintain adequate airflow by adjusting and maintaining ventilation equipment, which will promote a comfortable and healthy learning and working environment. Materials are being discarded and replaced (rugs, books, clipboards, etc.) Damp materials are being dried within 48 hours using large fans. Industrial sized HEPA air filters have been placed in the building to remove microbial in the air. Other materials that are affected with microbial are being promptly cleaned using soap and water and a disinfectant with a strong brush and a non-ammonia containing detergent and thorough drying. Further external testing of air quality and surfaces has been contracted to a professional outside consultant through RK Environmental.

A remediation/cleanup plan has been in place since last week using the professional remediation company, ServePro.

Remediation/Cleanup Plan:

1. Fix the humidity and moisture problem; implement repair plan and a maintenance plan;
2. Dry wet materials within 48 hours to prevent microbial growth;
3. Clean and dry materials;
4. Discard porous items that cannot be cleaned;
5. Replace all uni-vent filters;
7. Air sampling and surface testing by R. K. Environmental in all classrooms;

"Before the beginning of every school year, I stand before my staff and tell them that of everything they will do that year, from teaching amazing lessons to developing parent relations, to inspiring students, that there is one thing that will make me more proud of them than anything else. That simple act is to uplift one another."

~Ron Clark, author of "Move Your Bus"

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8. Closing of Francis A. Desmares to all personnel other than essential operating staff;
9. Communicate with staff and parents the cleanup process and outcomes of the external testing.

Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance to us. We are being diligent to ensure this matter is resolved in an expedient fashion. After we have the results of surface and air sample testing, I will communicate with you the results of the testing and any further action that may be recommended or required. A separate letter will arrive soon with further information regarding the first day for students scheduled for September 11. Parents can expect the district to open to students on September 11.

Sincerely,

Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools

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