

Nikolaos C. Koutsogiannis
Superintendent of Schools



Frances C. Adler
Business Administrator

April 25, 2019

Dear Clayton Community:

I would like to update you in regards to the gymnasium floor testing that was conducted in our school buildings. As I informed you in my previous letter, we took the proactive steps to test our rubberized gymnasium floors for mercury. Toward that end, we contracted with Epic Environmental Services to conduct the bulk core floor sample testing for the presence of mercury.

The initial core test for the Simmons Elementary School gymnasium found that the floors were non-mercury containing and that no further action was required. With this result in mind, I have authorized the re-opening of the Elementary School gymnasium effective immediately.

The core testing of the High School/Middle School auxiliary gymnasium found that the floor does contain mercury. Once I had received the core testing results, it was recommended and I authorized that an air quality test be conducted for the High School/Middle School auxiliary gymnasium during normal operating conditions. I received the air quality testing results, and I am pleased to inform you that they are below the New Jersey State Department of Health action limit criteria. However, it was recommended that a second air quality test be taken during the hot and humid summer months. This will give us results under worst-case conditions. I have authorized that the second air quality test be done and will wait for those results to determine any further action.

In light of this recommendation, the High School/Middle School auxiliary gymnasium will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. I feel this is the prudent and safe thing to do until we have the complete results from the second air quality test. Attached to this letter is a copy of the Mercury Air Sampling Summary from Epic Environmental. The final reports will be posted on our District website as soon as they become available.

As always, thank you for your support of Clayton Public School District.

Sincerely yours,


Nikolaos C. Koutsogiannis
Superintendent of Schools

Attachment

CLAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
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MEMO

Date: April 25, 2019
To: Mr. Nick Koutsogiannis, Superintendent
From: James Eberts
Re: Clayton High School – Mercury Air Sampling Summary

Comments:

Mr. Koutsogiannis,

Per the District's request, Epic Environmental recently performed bulk sampling of the rubberized floors at Simmons Elementary School and High School to test for the presence of mercury. Results of the sampling confirmed the presence of mercury above the currently recognized limit of 1 mg/Kg in the High School Auxiliary Gymnasium. The rubberized floor in the Simmons Gymnasium is NOT mercury containing.

Upon learning of the presence of mercury in the auxiliary gym flooring, the District authorized Epic Environmental to perform air sampling to measure mercury vapor concentrations that may be generated from the slow degradation of mercury in the flooring.

Representative air samples were collected on April 16, 2019. Ventilation and temperature were that of a typical school day. Two samples were collected at a height of 5' above the floor, representing the breathing zone for high school students and adults. One sample was collected at a height of 3', representing a lower breathing zone associated with wrestling activities. Results were compared to the action level criteria recommended by the New Jersey Department of Health of 0.8 µg/m³. This limit is protective of preschool-aged children.

Sample results are summarized below:

Auxiliary Gymnasium	0.34 – 0.38 µg/m ³
Weight Room (adjacent area)	0.16 µg/m ³

All results were well below the 0.8 µg/m³ NJDOH criteria. These results indicate that under normal operating and occupancy conditions, airborne mercury concentrations are not at a level that will pose either a short term or long term exposure risk.

Epic does recommend performing a "worst case" evaluation to measure airborne mercury concentrations at high temperatures and no ventilation to determine if precautions are necessary should the ventilation fail during the summer months.

A final report will be issued that will detail sampling procedures, results, and recommendations.

James Eberts
Epic Environmental Services, LLC