

IEQ Program Concern Report Summary Form

BCPS (Baltimore County Public Schools) Environmental Services offers the community an easily accessible online form to report IEQ related concerns and questions regarding all building facilities. An internal work order system is also utilized for BCPS staff to report IEQ concerns. After the evaluation and applicable completion of that work order, an IEQ Program Concern Report Summary Form is generated.

School / Facility

Pine Grove Middle School

Location

Throughout the entire building, including the designated work areas with on-going renovations.

Date of Report

1/18/23

Concern

Summary of concern received by BCPS Environmental Services.

Stakeholder called the SOS of Environmental on 1/13/23 alleging occupant complaints of odors, dizziness, metallic tastes, and headaches at Pine Grove MS (ongoing renovation). BCPS Work Order # 174392.

IEQ Investigation Process

Identify deficiencies that may impact IEQ and/or sources of odor concerns. Typically includes the following, depending on the nature of concern, but not limited to:

- Interview/questionnaire of concern individual(s).
- Inspection above drop ceiling (condition of roof decks, pipe insulation, return air plenums).
- Inspection of ventilation systems (operation of variable air volume box and outdoor air dampers; check controls; measurements of carbon dioxide, temperature, and relative humidity; areas adjacent to outdoor air intakes; measure return and supply air volumes; inspect the cleanliness of coils, liners and condensate pans, etc.).
- Inspection below drop ceiling (housekeeping, sink and floor drain traps, signs of past and present moisture concern via visual inspection and/or moisture meter, mold growth, ensure connection of current and capping of abandoned sanitary vents, odorizers, excessive plants and fabric items, identify potential pathways, and measure volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and lighting) if deemed necessary.

Findings

1/17/23 - Pine Grove Middle School – Environmental site visit by staff industrial hygienists to investigate stakeholder concerns.

A thorough inspection of the construction area revealed no adverse odors or activities that would generate any hazardous emissions. All cutting and grinding operations are conducted on Saturdays. Heavy equipment work is strictly regulated limiting emission activities unless additional ventilation sources are present. The construction areas are more than adequately secured and access to the school population cannot be unintentionally accessed.

Activities pertaining to asbestos and lead paint abatement were evaluated and determined to be in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations. All abatement activities are conducted on weekends and holidays without students, teachers, or activities anywhere in the building. All hazardous work is monitored by a third-party industrial hygienist.

A walkthrough of the occupied areas of the school revealed a clean and uncluttered facility. Temperature, relative humidity, and carbon dioxide levels were all within normal limits. Warmer temperatures, although within normal limits, were noted in the new section of the school. The renovation General Contractor is working to alleviate this by adjusting their setpoints and settings. There were no signs of excessive dust. Interruptions to school operations were not evident or reported by the administration. There were no reports of increased student or staff visits to the school nurse or increased absences due to construction activities.

Several stakeholders were interviewed during this evaluation. They included the Building Operations Supervisor, the Principal, the School Nurse, Teachers/Staff, the BCPS Facilities Construction Project Manager, and the General Contractor's Site Superintendent.

Follow-Up Guidance and/or Action

No further actions or modification to work processes is recommended at this time. BCPS Environmental will follow-up periodically with FCI staff and the school to screen for any additional concerns.

Stakeholder complainant will be notified of these results by phone by BCPS Environmental SOS on 1/18/23 and also advised to call back if they encounter any additional concerns, or, if necessary, can be referred to Office of Risk Management, as per the *Protocol for Environmental Health Issues* in Appendix 3 of the BCPS Indoor Environmental Quality Program.

The status of BCPS Work Order # 174392 is closed.