

From: York County School Division
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 1:10 PM
Subject: Grafton School Complex Update

Dear Grafton Staff:

This communication was sent yesterday afternoon and was intended for all Grafton families and staff. While creating custom distribution lists to incorporate rising sixth graders and remove graduates, we have learned that the staff list was not pulled in properly. We sincerely apologize as it is not our intent for parents to receive this information before staff members. If you have any questions, please reach out to the chief operations officer.

I am writing to share information regarding a recent discovery in the Grafton Complex as workers continue restoration and construction work. Saturday, custodial staff members discovered visible mold spores on carpeting in the auditorium and Kiva.

It is important to note that mold is always present indoors as a result of transport of spores and other cells from outdoors. The underlying cause of an indoor mold growth problem is excessive indoor moisture, often caused by elevated humidity in a building. In this case, the lack of air conditioning during the ongoing power restoration work has contributed to the humidity levels in the building.

Monday, the division brought in an industrial hygienist who did a preliminary inspection of the building. Additional evidence of mold was found in other limited areas on the middle school side. The division also secured the services of Belfor, who performed earlier restoration work resulting from the electrical room fire. The hygienist provided recommendations of action steps for the division to take. As such, the following has begun:

- Belfor has already deployed portable dehumidifiers in the affected areas and others for prevention.
- Belfor is bringing in large portable air-conditioning units to quickly bring down the humidity in the most affected middle school areas.
- The industrial hygienist is creating a remediation protocol that will be enacted upon completion of the dehumidification.
- The division and its contractors will expedite the work of the remediation protocol upon receipt.

Following completion of prescribed remediation work, a third-party environmental testing service will conduct tests to ensure proper air quality. These tests compare mold spore counts inside the building to the air outside, where mold spore counts are typically higher. We will share the results of those tests with you as soon as they are available.

Please be assured that the York County School Division is taking aggressive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We also want to assure you that the timeline for construction and restoration work is unaffected by this development and is still on schedule for completion in August.

Sincerely,

Jim Carroll, Ed.D.

Chief Operations Operations
York County School Division