

From: Krista Rushford <kristarushford93@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PCB Community Update

How is this okay for our children to be forced to go to a school that's full of toxic chemicals that may cause cancer? There's 20 rooms of those that were even tested that are way above the "safe" level and their plan is to keep allowing children to occupy those rooms. The safe level is 60 the gym is at 3200 and they plan to let kids be in there still just not as long? It's way above the immediate action levels. That's absolutely ridiculous and not at all safe for our children. There's write ups on this saying children shouldn't be in any rooms that tested above 90, 180, or 300 yet this school has rooms way above those numbers and no plan on keeping kids out of them. I've pulled my kids out of school and homeschooled them 2 years ago from this same issue. Now here we are again 2 yrs later still faced with the choice of dropping everything and homeschooling again or chance them getting serious health issues at school. This is sickening.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Administrative Assistant** <administrative.assistant@dves.k12.vt.us>
Date: Fri, Aug 30, 2024, 2:31 PM
Subject: PCB Community Update
To: parents <parents@tves.k12.vt.us>, faculty <faculty@tves.k12.vt.us>

Twin Valley Elementary School PCB Test Results

August 29, 2024

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and our Staff:

We are writing to provide you with an update on the recent testing for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in our school.

PCBs are a group of human-made chemicals commonly used in building materials and electrical equipment before 1980. PCBs can be released into indoor air from building materials that contain PCBs. PCBs can cause serious health problems. The potential for health effects from PCBs, as with other chemicals, depends on how much, how often, and how long someone is exposed to them.

Indoor air testing for PCBs took place at Twin Valley Elementary School during the week of June 3. An environmental consultant collected samples of indoor air that were processed by a laboratory, and then reviewed by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Vermont Department of Health.

What was found?

The PCB level in at least one tested room or space is at or above the lowest Vermont School Action Level for your school:

- 30 ng/m³ (nanograms per cubic meter) for pre-kindergarten
- 60 ng/m³ for kindergarten through 6th grade
- 100 ng/m³ for 7th grade through adult

Test results are listed below.

Why are the levels different for each age group?

Food is the main non-school source of exposure to PCBs for most people. Younger children are exposed to more PCBs per their body weight from the food they eat. The school action levels take into account the total exposure to PCBs for students and staff from the food they eat. That is why the school action level is lower for younger children and higher for older children and adults.

Test Results

Approximately one third of all rooms or spaces, such as stairways or hallways, in the school were tested. Rooms and spaces not listed were not tested. “Not detected” means that the laboratory did not detect any PCBs.

Room or Space	Result (ng/m³)
Mezzanine Ladies	3200, (1100)
Mezzanine Gentlemen	2900, (1900)
132, Gym, PreK	360,(260)
Gym Stage, PreK	360,(200)
154, Technology office, Adult	360,(180)
131, Gym office, Adult	240

194, Speech classroom, PreK	170
Boiler Room	170
149, Main office, PreK	170,(110)
191	170, (230)
156, Library, Kindergarten	160,(150)
190	130, (99)
Gym - library Hallway	120
Admin shared space	110
Entry_hallway	93
137, Guidance office, PreK	79
Nurse Bathroom	77
Gentlemen_bathroom	76
147, Conference room, 3rd grade	66
141, Nurse's office, PreK	65
Kitchen, Adult	56
111, Occupational therapy classroom, PreK	43
148, Principal office, Adult	37
Gym Storage	37
119, Classroom Cole, Kindergarten	34
168, Math and literacy coach's office, 3rd grade	34
122, Classroom Jutras, 2nd grade	24
127, Classroom King, 2nd grade	20
West hallway	20
161, Classroom C. Moore, Kindergarten	17

What happens next?

Our goal and the goal of our state partners is to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Our consultants will work with DEC to identify and address the sources of PCBs. The Health Department recommends that while our consultants work with DEC we lower the exposure of students and staff to PCBs by limiting the number of hours spent in the school or taking steps to reduce PCB levels within six weeks. We have chosen to take the following next steps. **This decision is supported by the Health Department.**

While the gym is still over the Immediate Action Level (IAL), **state officials support students reoccupying this space for up to 80 minutes per week. Staff may reoccupy this space for up to 16 hours per week. This guidance is based on being in the rooms for three months.** The limited use of the rooms is based on comparison of the indoor air levels from the most recent round of testing to health risk of being in the rooms for a short period of time (three months). Since the health risk from PCB exposure is based on the time and amount of exposure, this limited use of the gym is health protective for those in the building for this shortened time period.

Temporary Occupancy Plan:

Room	Group	Result (Previous round) (ng/m ³)	Option 3 No limit PreK	Option 3 No limit K-6	Option 3 No limit 7-Adult
131, Gym office, Adult	1	240	Not use	Not use	Use
Gym Stage, PreK	1	360,(200)	Not use	Not use	Not Use
132, Gym, PreK	1	360,(260)	80 min / week	80 min / week	16 hours / week

Room	Group	Result (Previous round) (ng/m³)	Option 3 No limit PreK	Option 3 No limit K-6	Option 3 No limit 7-Adult
Kitchen 2, Adult	2	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
Kitchen, Adult	2	56	Use	Use	Use
154, Technology office, Adult	5	360,(180)	Not use	Not use	Not Use
115, Classroom SPED, 2nd grade	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
118, Classroom Betit, 1st grade	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
123, Classroom Schacter, Kindergarten	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
126, Classroom M. Sullivan, 1st grade	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
133, Psychologist/Clinician office, PreK	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
160, Classroom Hanley, 3rd grade	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
164, Classroom Trudeau, Kindergarten	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
167, Office J. Moore, 3rd grade	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
171, Classroom Swanson, 2nd grade	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use
172, Classroom Bardwell, 5th grade	8	Not Tested	Use	Use	Use

Room	Group	Result (Previous round) (ng/m ³)	Option 3 No limit PreK	Option 3 No limit K-6	Option 3 No limit 7-Adult
Kitchen Office, Adult					