

February 1, 2024

Dear OPM Families and Staff,

As many of you know, Okemos Public Schools contracted with the Environmental Resources Group and other experts to conduct environmental testing throughout Okemos Public Montessori at Central. This environmental testing was conducted in every room in the OPM building starting in early January and continuing through this week. In addition, follow up lead water testing occurred on January 25 which included seven rooms throughout the building that were strategically selected by our testing experts.

We are sharing this information now that we have all of the data and lab reports to pass onto our families and staff.

The January 2024 testing included:

- Water testing (lead)
- Air testing (asbestos, lead, mold)
- Surface testing (asbestos, lead, mold)

You can find room-by-room information in the attached chart. The district is contracting with [ERG](#), [Clean Team](#), [GFL Environmental](#), and [Enviro-Tech Services](#) to test, clean, and remediate identified concerns.

Summary of Testing from Phil Peterson, ERG:

Good Thursday afternoon. Thank you to the Okemos Public School District for allowing ERG to perform such a comprehensive battery of testing throughout the Okemos Public Montessori. Our report is enormous, and it will take time for everyone to process all the information it contains. To help everyone understand the findings, there are a few summarizing points I'd like to make about the indoor environmental quality at OPM, which are as follows:

- No asbestos was detected in any of the dust samples collected in the building.
- Airborne (asbestos) fiber concentrations were below the EPA limit throughout the building.
- No lead was detected in any of the air samples collected in the building.

- Lead was detected in the dust in 2 rooms in the building and Okemos Public Schools took prompt action to correct those situations. No lead was detected in the dust anywhere else in the building. Follow up dust testing has been completed in those 2 rooms and has demonstrated that no detectable lead remains.
- Mold in air concentrations were within established limits, except for one hallway location which has been remediated and retested and which now has airborne mold concentrations within established limits.
- Mold in dust was found in about a dozen locations above the desired 1% limit or mold in dust concentrations were below that 1% limit but highly allergenic mold spores were present. ERG has recommended additional cleaning and retesting in those locations. Much of that additional cleaning has been completed and the additional cleaning that remains is scheduled to occur in the very near future. ERG is also scheduled to retest in the very near future.

Although I did not write this in the report, given the age of the building, its history of water leaks and deferred maintenance, the building today is safe to occupy. I would personally feel safe working there and the school is one that I would gladly send my 5-year-old twin grandsons to attend.

OPS Environmental Website:

The Okemos Schools Environmental Testing Website will launch Feb. 2 at noon. You can visit the site at opsenvironmental.net or find a link on the district's home page. This site will house all testing results and lab reports, health resources, OPM Facilities Committee meeting notes and more. The website will be updated regularly with new testing results and committee meeting information.

Environmental Testing Safe Limits:

Lead (Water): Only one of the seven rooms tested for lead analysis had any detectable lead. Water in room 131, the Art Room, measured 1 part per billion (ppb), which is below the Filter First limit of 5 ppb. No lead was detected in any of the other 6 drinking water samples. All bottle fillers tested undetectable.

- ERG believes the results show that the daily flushing is working to coat the pipes as intended and recommends to continue flushing. **ERG worked with the Ingham County Health Department to set the frequency and scope for future lead water testing at OPM. The next lead water testing is scheduled for early April.**

Lead (Air): No lead was detected in any of the collected air samples. No airborne limit for lead exposure exists for children, but the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) permissible exposure limit (for adults in the workplace) is 50 micrograms of lead per cubic meter of air.

Lead (Surface): Testing detected two spaces with lead in the dust: the Enrichment Room results showed 11 micrograms of lead per square foot of surface area (ug/ft²) in Room 135 and 6.3 (ug/ft²) in the Staff Lounge. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services limit is 10 ug/ft² of lead on floor surfaces in daycare spaces.

Asbestos (Air): All airborne asbestos fiber concentrations were lower than required by the EPA in a K-12 school building, which is 0.01 fibers per cubic centimeter of air (f/cc) for acceptable air quality. Tests showed below 0.005 (f/cc) in every case.

Asbestos (Surface): No asbestos was detected in any of the collected dust samples. The limit in Michigan is more than one percent asbestos in dust.

Mold (Air): Tests showed the air was either devoid of mold or had airborne mold concentrations that were low and consistent with the Baxter Criteria, with one exception. The hallway outside of the library, while not exceeding the Baxter Criteria, did contain a low, but statistically significant number of spores of the genus *Stachybotrys*. Some authors have described this mold as highly allergenic. Highly allergenic mold should not be measurable in any significant number in the air or in settled dust. The issue has been remediated and our rest showed no further concerns.

The [Baxter Criteria](#) are based on a battery of research that sets the criteria used to determine if indoor mold concentrations are elevated or not. To meet the Baxter Criteria, mold spores are measured as individual strains, as well as with all strains added together. All measurements are then compared against the expected norms.

Mold (Surface): Generally, mold was not detected in dust above the normal threshold of 1%. The presence of some mold in dust is inevitable, but with good housekeeping practices and a dry indoor environment, mold should not be present at levels above 1%, nor should highly allergenic mold be present, nor should visible mold be present. **While test results did show elevated levels of mold spores or low levels of highly allergenic mold spores, the lack of mold in the air shows that the building's filtration systems are working effectively.**

Next Steps:

- Continue with recommended water flushing, remediation, cleaning, and retesting
- OPS Environmental Testing [website](#) live Feb. 2 at noon
- OPM Facilities Committee next meeting Feb. 5
- Community forum planned for the week of Feb. 26
- Sharing updated testing results with the community as they are finalized

Room #/ Teacher	Lead water testing results (Action required at 5 ppb)	Remediation
Room 104: Kara	0 ppb	In process: Continue daily flushing
Room 107: Beth	0 ppb	In process: Continue daily flushing
Room 116: Jennifer	0 ppb	In process: Continue daily flushing

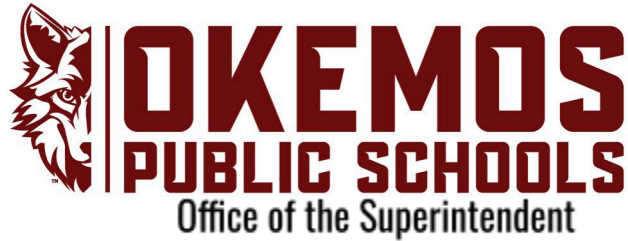
Room 119: Holly	0 ppb	In process: Continue daily flushing
Room 121: Kelly B.	0 ppb	In process: Continue daily flushing
Room 131: Art Room	1 ppb	In process: Continue daily flushing
Room 135: Enrichment	0 ppb	In process: Continue daily flushing
All Bottle Filler	0 ppb	N/A

Contacts for Further Information:

Brian Lieber, OPS Operations: 517-706-5039
 OPS Health Team: 517-706-5008
 OPS Communications: communication@okemosk12.net
 ICHD: 517-887-4311



John J. Hood
 Superintendent



January 17, 2024

Dear OPM Families,

The District is committed to sharing official results about the environmental testing at OPM over winter break as quickly and transparently as possible. While we do not have all of the comprehensive data and a final report from the testing group, we want our families to know about slightly elevated levels of lead dust found in two samples: Room 135, which is the enrichment room, and the teacher's lounge.

Testing by the Environmental Resource Group showed no airborne lead in any of the rooms at OPM, including the two rooms mentioned above.

Room 135, the enrichment room, tested at 11 micrograms of lead per square foot (ug/ft²). The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services limit is 10 ug/ft² of lead on floor surfaces in daycare spaces. (A microgram is one millionth of a gram.) The sample was collected on the blue floor tile. Carpet in that room (about half the room) was replaced over winter break.

The district has temporarily relocated children in room 135 to room 104 (Ms. Kara's room), which is a licensed childcare room. This was recommended until the floor is cleaned and further testing shows lead is undetectable in the room. For tomorrow, morning drop off can occur through the front office (Door 1) and evening pick up can occur through (Door 2).

Additionally, a lead dust sample in the teacher's lounge tested at 6.3 ug/ft², below the limit of 10 ug/ft². There was no recommendation to close or limit access to the staff lounge. OPS Operations will clean that area tomorrow.

The district is contracting with an expert in lead based paint inspection and risk assessment for both rooms.

Tomorrow, our health team will call families with students in the enrichment room.

According to the Ingham County Health Department, the only way to know for sure if your child has lead poisoning is with a blood test. Testing is available through your doctor's office or for

free through the Ingham County Health Department. You can schedule an appointment at 517.887.4322 or complete the [Lead Testing Contact Form](#) for more information.

We have promised our community full results from the testing, as well as lab reports. We remain committed to that and expect to have the formal written report from ERG at the end of next week. We are sharing information earlier that is official, not preliminary. ERG tested air and dust for lead, mold, asbestos, spores, pollen, and other particulates.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Hood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

John J. Hood
Superintendent