

January 17, 2020

**REFERENCE: McClure School Environmental Updates**  
McClure Elementary School  
600 West Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19140

McClure Staff and Families,

On January 14, during the staff walkthrough and with members of the PFT on-site, it was determined that the building was safe for re-occupancy with the only remaining concern being the air quality in the City Year office. This office does not have any asbestos containing materials, however the attic located adjacent to the City Year office contains asbestos pipe insulation. The attic is inaccessible and had been sealed with plastic sheeting. During the AHERA inspection in December, the plastic seal was reported to have come loose and was immediately re-secured. However, this led to questions regarding the air quality in the City Year Office.

Before the building re-opened on Wednesday, January 15th, McClure staff was notified not to use the City Year office, and two diagnostic air samples were taken in the room. One sample was below the re-occupancy standard, while the second was slightly above standard. The District shared these results with members of the PFT. As a result of these tests, the City Year office was isolated with plastic sheeting and a lock was installed on the door.

McClure re-opened on Wednesday, January 15th, while members of the District's Environmental Management Team and the PFT began collecting additional diagnostic air samples in the areas surrounding the City Year office.

The first round of additional air sampling in the areas surrounding the City Year office, including the 3rd floor hallway, the 2nd and 3rd floor stairwell landings and the landing between the 2nd and 3rd floor, was conducted the night of January 15th using the procedures outlined by the City of Philadelphia Asbestos Control Regulations (ACR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The results fell within EPA and ACR standards, and indicate that no airborne asbestos fibers were found outside of the office or in the immediate path of travel. A second round of additional testing took place the night of January 16th. This testing was aggressive, meaning that the technicians used leaf blowers to stir up the air and simulated a higher than typical air flow. Aggressive testing is beyond what is required by both EPA and city standards. Three out of twenty of these samples yielded slightly elevated results - all on the third floor.

Based on those results, the decision was made to close McClure on Friday, January 17th. The following steps will be taken this weekend:

- Thorough cleaning, including HEPA vacuuming and wet wiping of all surfaces in the sealed City Year office, 3rd floor hallway, stairwell and former tank room immediately outside the attic entrance, will take place.
- The District's Environmental team will re-secure the seal leading to the attic by adding a plywood barrier.
- Following the cleaning, additional air sampling will be conducted in these spaces, including the City Year office, to ensure the building is safe for re-occupancy.

We are committed to meeting all safety standards, even aggressive ones. All project and testing information is accessible on the school's website at [philasd.org/mcclure](http://philasd.org/mcclure).

We will provide additional updates on Monday. The school will not reopen until all testing is complete and all results are favorable.

Sincerely,

Ryan Hutsell  
Synertech Incorporated

Brian Joseph  
Director, Office of Environmental Management  
School District of Philadelphia