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October 24, 2017

Via email: [gwoicekowski@hackettstown.org](mailto:gwoicekowski@hackettstown.org)

Ms. Gail Woicekowski, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Mr. Doug De Matteo, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds  
Hackettstown Public Schools  
315 Washington Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 079540

Re: Final Results  
Willow Grove Elementary School

Dear Ms. Woicekowski,

All results from Post-remediation Verification tests (PRV tests) and assessments have been received and none indicate unusual fungal populations in either the air or on surfaces. This is good.

Visual inspections, measurements of moisture content in building materials, and analytical results all indicate positive trends. Significant moisture and/or visible evidence of uncontrolled moisture content in building materials were not apparent upon the re-inspections. Building materials did not exhibit elevated levels of moisture when tested with penetrating and non-penetrating moisture meters.

Airborne fungal levels compared favorably with outdoor reference samples and few or no fungal genera or species of concern were seen at levels considered significant. Surface samples results were all “normal background.” The designation of “normal background” is made when a mix of spore types is present with the same general distribution as is usually found outdoors and that would be expected to be present in clean, dry indoor environments.

Based on R.K.’s initial sampling data and results of visual and moisture inspections that we, presented in meetings with school administrators in early September, the prudent and proper but difficult decision was made by school administrators to close the school and remediate it on an emergency basis. We found unusual fungal populations in the air and on surfaces in many locations and noted the presence of damp building materials and visible fungal growth. Protection of the health of staff and students in Willow Grove E.S. was the primary motivation factor considered in making the decision to immediately close the school.

I am pleased to report that the conditions we previously noted have been addressed and remediated. Conditions in the school have been returned to those reflective of the outdoor fungal biodiversity with respect to fungal content in air and on surfaces. ServPro of Toms River, the remedial contractor, removed materials like bulletin boards, water-damaged sinks with fungal growth and other impacted building materials like area carpets. All hard surface materials like desks, closets, tables etc. were cleaned to remove fungal growth. Many soft goods that were contaminated were removed and all contents were scrupulously cleaned following generally-accepted fungal remediation guidelines and protocols.

Willow Grove School is now as clean as it has ever been. We will work with you to insure that the conditions that resulted in those seen in early September do not repeat themselves. It will require a coordinated effort including proper HVAC operation and maintenance, moisture control, occupant education and an om-going program following “Cleaning for Health” principles.

Conditions seen following remedial activities in Willow Grove School are the types of conditions to be achieved when microbial remediation and cleaning projects are completed, and it is believed that there are no unusual fungal conditions in the previously contaminated areas of the school as of the date of this report.\

This project proves that working together, keeping lines of communication open with staff, parents and the public and having people with experience in these kinds of large-scale projects complete the work will result in a successful resolution. Great work everybody!!

If you have any questions or need further information please feel free to call us at (908) 454-6316. We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Sincerely,

*Mike McGuinness*

Michael McGuinness, CIH, CET, CIAQP  
ABIH-certified in Indoor Environmental Quality  
Principal

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