

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Ms. Kari McGann
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September 9, 2018

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Community:

I write to our community to provide an update after receiving more results over the weekend. We remain on schedule for the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District to open for **all** students on September 11, 2018. Providing a healthy and comfortable environment is of the utmost importance. Therefore, we continue to monitor air conditions by performing visual inspections and professional testing in all instructional spaces. Based on the most recent information available, I want to share with you our latest plans to continue to remediate indoor air quality issues and ensure our community is up-to-date on the most current information provided to us by specialists.

To provide information about all schools I offer the following:

Francis A. Desmares School

Staff and students will be temporarily relocated to provide the needed time for continued cleaning and remediation by ServePro professional cleaning company. See the link [here](#) for the letter from September 7 about information regarding relocation and [here](#) for additional information about procedures. I am happy to share that we received test results back this weekend with positive news about FAD. After professional cleaning from Servepro, all lift surface sample results from the first and second round of tests from FAD are “normal background” and indicate a group of rooms are now considered clean. Initial air tests did not indicate unusual fungal populations in the first group of classrooms and the second group of classrooms. We are waiting on the final group of rooms to be cleared from the first floor from a second round of testing, plus re-tests of other rooms that were cleaned. All classrooms on the second floor have been cleared by our environmentalist following results from the microbiologist, Dr. Wei Tang, Ph.D. See more information [here](#) about Dr. Wei Tang, Ph. D. However, I cannot open the building yet to students and staff because it has not been cleared from the environmentalist. **If** we get results back from the microbiologist on Monday **and** the environmentalist clears the building I will open the building for staff and students. Parents will receive notification via phone, text, and e-mail. I will not rush to make this decision, but will rely strictly on science and the recommendations of experts. All reports will be posted on-line for the community’s review.

Barley Sheaf School & Robert Hunter Elementary School

These two schools are in good shape and cleared for staff and students, according to our environmentalist and professional cleaning service. Lab results are being posted for the community’s review. As reported to the community on September 7, see the link [here](#) for the letter, some students and staff at Barley Sheaf School and Robert Hunter School may be assigned temporary classrooms. The libraries in both buildings, as well as the art room at Barley Sheaf and one classroom at Robert Hunter are being addressed. We continue to air scrub with HEPA air scrubbers, use dehumidifiers, and have plans to place these areas under negative pressure. Negative pressure is a ventilation system that generates negative pressure to allow air flow into the room, but not escape the room, as air will naturally flow from areas with higher pressure to areas with lower pressure, thereby preventing air from escaping the room. See the EPA link [here](#) for more information on negative pressure. This method of remediation has been advised by our professional cleaning company and verified by our environmentalist and follows the guidelines of the EPA.

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Copper Hill Elementary School

Copper Hill Elementary was reopened to staff and students on September 4. See the link [here](#) for the letter to the community. Lab results were posted online for the community's review. One vacant classroom in the building continues to be air scrubbed with a HEPA air scrubber. We are awaiting final test results from this particular room to verify that the HEPA air scrubbing is continuing to keep the humidity levels at a constant or lowered.

Reading-Fleming Intermediate School

Areas that were being addressed at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School were cleared by our environmentalist on September 2. Lab results are posted for the community's review. Two classroom areas continue to be remediated, as explained in a letter to the community on August 28. See the link [here](#) for the letter. These two rooms remain closed due to air quality issues. The building principal was able to relocate the instruction that would have occurred in these two spaces; a chorus room and a small group instruction room. The doors to the classrooms have been closed and present no concern to the remainder of the building or to the passageways outside the classroom. Negative pressure, as explained above, is part of the remediation plan. The basement of RFIS, where the lower gym is located, had test results returned to us that passed all surface and air quality tests. These results arrived on September 2 and will be posted for the community's review. However, I am not opening the lower gym area until further remediation occurs in the basement. The back of the basement does require further remediation. Following the guidelines of the EPA and the environmentalist, negative pressure will be applied in this location. To continue to follow the guidelines of the EPA the district built a containment wall between the back part of the basement and the lower gym. See information from the EPA [here](#) regarding containment walls. Complete remediation has been scheduled for October 22-November 9. We are investigating other companies that may be able to do the work sooner, but as of today, we have not found any other companies with quicker availability.

J.P. Case Middle School

J.P. Case Middle School was completely cleared by our environmentalist on September 5. See the link [here](#) for the letter to the community. Lab results were posted online for the community's review.

While we regret the delay of the opening of schools and other disruptions, we are committed to providing a healthy, supportive, and nurturing environment for all of our students and staff. I would be remiss if I did not highlight the superstar staff in all buildings in Flemington-Raritan Schools for their dedication and perseverance in a challenging situation. The teachers, administration, staff, and faculty in our schools are completely dedicated to students and the district. I have seen evidence of this over and over again since my first day serving the district on July 1. I would also like to thank the many parents that have offered their assistance, positive comments, and support as the district works to provide a healthy and comfortable environment.

Sincerely,

Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools