

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Ms. Kari McGann
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TO: Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Community
FROM: Kari McGann, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: May 15, 2019
RE: **Indoor Air Quality in Flemington-Raritan Regional Schools**

In the spirit of clear communication with community members I am writing to share with our stakeholders information regarding indoor air quality in Flemington-Raritan Regional Schools and the latest measures being taken to ensure moisture and humidity levels are regulated in our district. As communicated in the March Superintendent's Newsletter on pages three and four, which can be found [here](#), the district is taking proactive measures to combat any mold, mildew, and moisture in our schools.

As the weather begins to get warmer we have set procedures in place to keep the buildings dry and the humidity levels at appropriate ranges. In light of all that has been learned throughout the state this past summer, the District is working closely with consultants to implement additional proactive measures to address air quality concerns. This will include air quality testing in areas where the environmentalist recommends testing and the use of industrial-sized HEPA air scrubbers and industrial dehumidifiers, as well as a consultation with the environmentalist. Should areas cause concern or evidence of growth occur the following procedures are in place:

1. Building Principal is notified;
2. Facilities team is notified;
3. Superintendent is notified;
4. Areas are cleaned with special Maslin cloths;
5. Porous items that cannot be cleaned are discarded;
6. Replacement of uni-vent filters, when needed;
7. Classroom temperatures set at 75 degrees to avoid humidity buildup;
8. Indoor humidity levels monitored closely to determine if windows need to be closed on days when humidity levels have remained high (60% or higher) for multiple days;
9. Professional cleaning, if advised by the environmentalist;
10. Monthly summertime consult and building walkthroughs with environmentalist(s);
11. Dehumidifiers in place in all buildings;
12. HEPA air scrubbers used when needed;
13. HVAC monitoring in schools that have air conditioning;
14. Purchase of humidity monitors.

The district is in constant contact and collaboration with experts in the area of quality indoor air. We are taking the necessary steps to remediate any situations that are brought to the attention of building principals. The Superintendent's Office has been planning ahead to prevent moisture and humidity issues. An Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) action plan has been finalized which will be shared with members of the Board of Education next week and members of the Wellness Committee and District Safety Committees in June.

The heat, district-wide, has been turned off with the exception of the previous day this week where it was a little cooler than we typically see this time of year. We continue to bring in outside air through the ventilators, as is required by the State of New Jersey. We are working to be sure that all systems are working properly. At this time teachers

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may open their windows if they so choose as we have not set any limitations on opening the windows. The Maintenance Department has been strategically placing dehumidifiers throughout the district. We understand they are noisy and produce heat, but this is the direct line of defense against unusual fungi growth, moisture, and humidity. Currently dehumidifiers are operating only at night.

Teachers have been told by my office to report any concerns they have with their classrooms to their building principals. They will contact the Maintenance Department to investigate those concerns and the Maintenance Department communicates to me. If we feel the need to request changes to our current procedures, or if any other facility restrictions are needed, we will communicate those concerns with teachers. The Maintenance Department and custodial staff are taking other steps to increase air circulation inside the building.

As a reminder, mold and mildew are all around us; inside and outside our homes and our buildings. We cannot eliminate all mold. As referenced in the report by Mike McGuiness, Occupational & Environmental Analysis in the Copper Hill Elementary School Information report, there are no specific standards or accepted exposure levels to differentiate between "safe" or "unsafe" exposure levels. "Given these limitations, we advise our clients to keep their buildings clean, and most importantly, dry." ([Reference, Initial Information- Copper Hill Elementary School 8/20/18](#))

The health, comfort, and learning environment of students and staff are important aspects of Flemington-Raritan Regional School District's mission. Flemington-Raritan Regional School District is strongly committed to the health and comfort of our students and staff, as well the environmental quality in the school. It is important for all that our schools provide a safe, comfortable, and productive environment for our students and staff so that we achieve our core mission—educating students. Our district follows the guidelines by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prevent as many indoor air quality problems (IAQ) as possible and respond to any IAQ issues that may arise. For more information visit the EPA link [here](#).

I welcome your questions, areas of concern, and your partnership in education for our most important people, our students.

Sincerely,

Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools