

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
Ms. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools  
50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300  
Phone: (908) 284-7561 Fax: (908) 284-7656  
[kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us)



TO: Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Community  
FROM: Kari McGann, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: August 22, 2018  
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 community information regarding indoor air quality in the Flemington-Raritan Regional Schools. Moisture problems in school buildings can be caused by a variety of conditions, including roof and plumbing leaks, condensation, and excess humidity. We believe that the increase in moisture levels are the result of hot, humid weather over the past three weeks and a ventilation and air-conditioning system that needs to be adjusted. Buildings and grounds staff, as well as maintenance staff are working diligently to provide and maintain adequate airflow by adjusting and maintaining ventilation equipment, which will promote a comfortable and healthy learning and working environment.

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 as 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](#).

**Indoor Air Quality Specifics about Copper Hill Elementary:**

It came to my attention on the evening of August 13th that the air quality was less than ideal at Copper Hill Elementary School. Following conversations and surface and air quality testing I made the decision to temporarily close Copper Hill Elementary School to allow an outside professional company to remediate the building and bring the humidity levels and air quality to an appropriate range. This decision is not one I made lightly, but one I made with the best interest of our staff, students, and parents to ensure the health, comfort, and learning environment of students and staff at Copper Hill Elementary School. I expect the closing of Copper Hill Elementary to be temporary to allow the necessary remediation and cleanup process to take place. The professional cleaning will begin on Wednesday, August 23rd and is expected to take seven days. We are anticipating that the professional cleaning service will work through the weekend in order to help us open the doors to students and staff on time. Following the professional cleaning a second round of testing will commence. The second round of testing is expected to take 24-36 hours.

**Indoor Air Quality Specifics about the basement at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School:**

On August 16<sup>th</sup> I was made aware that the basement at Reading-Fleming Intermediate School, in areas where students do not have access, was also an area that was suspected to have higher than normal levels of moisture. It is important that I reiterate, to date there have been no moisture or humidity levels that have caused concerns at RFIS, other than in areas of the basement where students do not access. There is no airflow circulation from the basement area of RFIS to the upstairs levels of RFIS. I want to make sure that I alleviate any concerns that parents may have regarding indoor air quality prior to the opening of our doors for students' return on the first day of

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
Ms. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools  
50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300  
Phone: (908) 284-7561 Fax: (908) 284-7656  
[kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us)



school. Therefore, a remediation /cleanup plan is already in process at Copper Hill Elementary School and the basement at RFIS. A proactive plan is in place for all other buildings in the district.

**Remediation/Cleanup Plan Already in Process:**

1. Fix the humidity and moisture problem; implement repair plan and a maintenance plan;
2. Dry wet materials within 48 hours to prevent microbial growth;
3. Clean and dry materials;
4. Discard porous items that cannot be cleaned;
5. Replace all uni-vent filters;
6. Set classroom temperature at 75 degrees to avoid humidity buildup;
7. Air sampling and surface testing by R. K. Environmental in all classrooms at Copper Hill, workplaces in the basement at RFIS, and strategic sampling in all other buildings in the district which have had no symptoms;
8. Professional Cleaning through SERVPRO at Copper Hill Elementary and the basement at RFIS; and
9. Communicate with staff and parents the cleanup process and outcomes of the external testing.

**Proactive Plan in Process to Ensure Indoor Air Quality in all Buildings:**

To be proactive and ensure all of our buildings have quality indoor air for students and staff, strategic sample testing will occur this week throughout all our buildings by R. & K. Environmental Analysis Company. Strategic sample testing has already started in other buildings by R. & K. Environmental Analysis Company to provide conclusive results that all of our buildings in the district are ready for staff and students. RFIS strategic sample testing began on Tuesday, August 21st; and at J.P. Case today, on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Robert Hunter, Barley Sheaf, and Frances Desmares are scheduled for Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is important that I reiterate, to date there have been no moisture or humidity levels that have caused concerns at any buildings other than in areas of the basement at RFIS, where students do not access, and at Copper Hill Elementary.

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 my attention and to have the doors open to students on September 6<sup>th</sup> and to staff at Copper Hill Elementary as soon as possible. Following results of the second set of surface and air sample testing for Copper Hill I will communicate the results of the testing and the date that the doors of Copper Hill Elementary School will reopen to staff and students. I will share results after initial testing for the basement area of RFIS and strategic sample tests for all other buildings.

On the district webpage [here](#) parents can access all letters sent to community members regarding humidity levels and all future correspondence from my desk. Additionally, at this webpage uploaded soon will be an audio recording of the August Superintendent's Roundtable at J.P. Case Middle School which featured the owner from R.K. Environmental Consulting Company who answered questions from the audience.

Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance to us. We are being diligent to ensure this matter is resolved. After we have the results of surface and air sample testing, I will communicate with you the results of the testing and any further action that may be recommended or required.

Sincerely,

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
Ms. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools  
50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300  
Phone: (908) 284-7561 Fax: (908) 284-7656  
[kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us](mailto:kmcgann@frsd.k12.nj.us)



*Kari McGann*

Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools