

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
Ms. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools  
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TO: Francis A. Desmares Elementary School Community  
FROM: Kari McGann, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: August 28, 2018  
RE: **Follow-up: Indoor Air Quality Strategic Sample Test Results for Francis A. Desmares Elementary School**

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](#).

In district-wide communication dated August 22<sup>nd</sup> it was explained that a proactive plan was put into place to ensure indoor air quality in all buildings. The strategic air sampling and surface testing were contracted to a professional outside consultant, R & K Environmental, with Francis A. Desmares Elementary School results returned to me today. Test results have concluded that the indoor air quality is not at a level which is recommended by the outside environmental consultant agency for staff, parents, or community members. As a result, I have decided to temporarily close Francis A. Desmares Elementary School to remediate using HEPA air scrubbers and engage in a consultation and walk-through with our contracted agencies. We are still investigating this issue. We will begin to use HEPA air scrubbers to remove particles from the air by drawing air in from the surrounding environment and passing the air through a series of filters to remove unwanted particles. I expect the closing of Francis A. Desmares Elementary School to be temporary to allow the necessary remediation and cleanup process to take place.

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 Francis A. Desmares Elementary School and upon consultation with many, including the environmental consultant, our facilities director, our custodial services directors, and our administrative team.

The health, comfort, and learning environment of students and staff are important aspects of Flemington-Raritan Regional School District's mission. The district is in constant contact and collaboration with experts in the area of indoor air quality. We are taking the necessary steps to remediate the situation and to have the doors open to students on September 6<sup>th</sup> and to staff as soon as possible. I will provide further communication as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,

Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools