

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2020

Update Regarding the Health Concerns at the
Decatur Elementary Learning Center (DELC)

The investigation of a possible disease cluster is continuing as we prepare a written response to your questions and concerns and complete the report of the disease investigation. There still is no indication of a health issue associated with the building.

Indoor Air Quality

Both academies were tested in 2012 and again in 2019 for Radon and determined to be well below the EPA recommended limit.

ACT Environmental Services, Inc. (ACT), under the direction of pH₂, is scheduled to test basic indoor air quality parameters (carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, temperature, relative humidity, and particulate levels) at the Blue & Gold Academies on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Testing was delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic; students need to be present in order to get representative testing results.

In response to concerns expressed by teachers, staff, and parents, ACT, under the direction of pH₂, is scheduled to sample the air for mold at the Blue & Gold Academies on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at the same time as the other testing. Testing was delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Carpet Sampling

In response to concerns expressed by teachers/staff regarding general air quality, ACT conducted sampling of the carpets during Spring Break for allergens (mouse, dust mites, cockroach). pH₂ reviewed the results and found the dust mite and cockroach allergens to be at very good levels as most samples were below detection.

pH₂ found the mice allergen results to be above what would be expected for a clean school, but below consensus limits selected to protect sensitive children (e.g., asthmatics) from response. As part of the facility's standard cleaning program, the carpets were cleaned after testing. Due to COVID 19 concerns, additional cleaning has and will continue to take place.

Evaluation of HVAC (Heating and Air Conditioning) System

ACT and pH₂ evaluated the operation of the HVAC system to deliver air appropriately to the school occupants. This occurred over Spring Break immediately prior to normally scheduled cleaning. Of the rooms tested, only one side-room revealed poor fresh air delivery (easily correctable by re-balancing the air supply).

Community Survey Results

pH2 collected information on additional health concerns from the DELC community. This data is being compiled into a document in an effort to be responsive and transparent to this community. pH2 is committed to protecting the privacy of every member of this community. Questions that include information or distinctive identifiers of those who submitted them will be excluded from the document.

Follow-up & Reporting

pH2 will produce a brief report (publicly available) to conclude the disease cluster investigation in September, 2020. It will be limited in content in order to protect confidential information regarding the individual cases.

pH2 will produce a second report regarding the air quality upon compiling and processing the testing results. This report will be made publicly available for teachers, staff, and parents.

We will continue to provide updates to keep the teachers, staff, and the community informed.