



Pat Quinn, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

22 Kettle River Drive • Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034-2801 • www.idph.state.il.us

November 18, 2009

Environmental Toxicology #410300901

Mr. Paul D. Skeans, Superintendent of Schools
Community Unit School District #7
510 West Elm Street
Gillespie, IL 62033

Dear Mr. Skeans:

On October 30, 2009, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Edwardsville Regional Office was initially contacted by Craig Bussmann, Director of Environmental Health, Macoupin County requesting an investigation of a mold complaint at the new modular elementary school that was constructed in Gillespie. Later that morning, you contacted this office to set up a time for the inspection of the building. You requested that the inspection be made prior to opening the building, which was scheduled for November 2, 2009. Upon arriving at your office, I spoke with Mark Carpani, IT coordinator for District #7 and then you summarized the complaint. A visual inspection of the modular school was conducted after the original interview. I was accompanied during the inspection by you and Mr. Tom Hyde, your architect for the modular building project. Telephone interviews were conducted with persons involved with the project on November 4, 2009.

The complaint was apparently made by someone who was working on the project until their dismissal on October 15, 2009. The complainant contacted Craig Bussmann and your office with the complaint, which was that mold was growing in the walls at the school and was covered up during the construction. A low quality picture, reportedly taken with a cell phone camera, was sent to the School District, showing mold in what appears to be the void side of the drywall. Mr. Hyde thought that it was possibly an area in an interior wall between the bathroom and the gym/cafeteria.

Mr. Carpani stated that he had run 11,000 feet of data cable throughout the building. He stated that he did not notice any mold while installing the cable. Further he said that he was allergic to mold and that he did not experience any symptoms during the installation.

A walk through of the building included all rooms. The building was clean and smelled of fresh paint. During the walk through and visual inspection of the building no mold odors or visual signs of mold were seen. The void between the ceiling and the roof was inspected in two places. No mold or leaks were noted above the ceiling in these areas; however, the drywall and insulation in the ceiling impeded viewing in this area. Mr. Hyde said that 4 leaks in the roof had been reported, two small leaks that were seen as spots on ceiling tiles were noted during the inspection. The leaks were noted on the ceiling tiles in room 143 (Mrs. Jubelt's room) and the music room. Mr. Hyde stated that he had not seen mold during the construction of the building.

Improving public health, one community at a time

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The modular building has a crawl space, which had skirting in place at the time of the inspection. Recent rains left water standing on the ground's surface in areas near the school; however, the area underneath the school could not be viewed due to the skirting. Mr. Hyde reported that the crawlspace was passively vented. Numerous vents were noted in the skirting of the building.

A mold inspection of the school building had been conducted by American Environmental Laboratories prior to the complaint and before opening the school. Mr. Hyde sent us a copy of the mold inspection report, which included air sampling. In the conclusion section of the report it states "At this time, the New Gillespie Community School does not have active mold in Class Rooms, Utility Rooms or Administration."

On November 4, 2009, I had telephone conversations with several persons who worked on the school during construction/assembly of the modular school. None of the persons interviewed saw any mold at the school. The persons I contacted were Sean Catterson, the project manager for M Space Holdings; Dan Heise, the plumber for the outside of the building; Mike Nejmanowski, plumber for the inside of the building; Tim Henson, electrician; and Scott Wagner, electrician. In addition, IDPH plumbing inspectors from the Edwardsville Regional Office inspected the plumbing installation in the school several times as it was being installed and they reported that they did not see any mold during the inspections.

No evidence of mold was found during the investigation. It is recommended that you regularly check the crawl space to ensure that there is no mold growth and the area is receiving adequate ventilation. If you have questions or need additional information please contact me at 22 Kettle River Drive, Glen Carbon, IL 62034, or telephone (618) 656-6680.

Sincerely,



David R. Webb
Environmental Toxicologist

CC Division of Environmental Health ✓
Edwardsville Region
Craig Bussmann, Macoupin County Health Department