

Illinois Department of
Public
Health

George H. Ryan, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001

Case #910230101

October 24, 2001

Wes Riva, Principal
South Fork Elementary School
Kincaid, IL 62540

Dear Mr. Riva:

On October 18th, I met with you and Barbara Behrends, an environmental health inspector for the Christian County Health Department. We met to discuss complaints that you have received from at least four teachers at South Fork Elementary School. Specifically, teachers have complained about sore throats, loss of voice, sneezing, and coughing. All four of the complainants work in the newer section of the school, and none of them was displaced from the school during recent construction activities.


During our meeting, Mrs. Behrends and I inspected the school for general indoor environmental problems, including a visual inspection of the heating units in the four complainants' classrooms. I also used a Q-trak during the inspection to evaluate the ventilation rate in the school. I did not identify any indoor environmental problems that would pose an immediate threat to the safety and health of your students and teachers. Moreover, I could not identify any current indoor environmental problems that could reasonably be expected to result in the complainants' symptoms. It is possible that recently completed construction activities affected the complainants' health, but it is no longer possible to evaluate the school under those conditions.

Based on the information gathered during our discussions and a general inspection of the school, I make the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Consult with a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning specialist about installing a ventilation and air conditioning system. Teachers at the school cannot open their windows for ventilation, and the measurements I collected with a Q-trak indicate the school was receiving inadequate ventilation.
- Implement a regular cleaning and maintenance plan that includes the current heating system. Additionally, you should provide easier access to air filters inside the heating units in the complainants' classrooms.
- Address the issues raised by Mrs. Behrends' report of October 11th.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (217) 782-5830.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aaron Martin

Cc: Barbara Behrends, Christian County Health Department