

PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office

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A. Paul Scott
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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To: **Scott Storms, Intermediate School Principal**
Peru CSD Employees Assigned to the Intermediate School
Parents & Guardians of Students Enrolled at the Intermediate School

From:  A. Paul Scott, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Date: September 20, 2011

Subject: **Basement-Level Intermediate School Spaces**

During the first days of September, the school district engaged with Atlantic Testing Laboratories for sampling and analysis of various mold found in various basement-level spaces at the Intermediate School, particularly a few basement storage rooms. As a precautionary measure, all basement-level rooms in that portion of the school are no longer authorized for use. That includes yet is not limited to basement storage rooms, the kitchen, cafeteria and associated toilet rooms. Music classroom space is relocated to the main floor. Cafeteria and kitchen services are relocated to the 'cracker box' gymnasium on the ground floor.

Provided below are pertinent highlights of the Atlantic Testing report I received earlier today. Following those highlights is an outline of the actions Peru Central will take to remediate the situation.

Summary of Atlantic Testing Report's Findings and Recommendations

- As to general information about mold: It is impossible to eliminate all molds and mold spores in the indoor environment; however, controlling the amount of moisture within the building can reduce the potential for mold propagation.
- Also as to general information about mold: In regard to mold at home and at school, potential health concerns are an important reason to prevent mold growth and to remediate any existing mold growth.
- A moderate musty odor was present within the crawlspace area of concern at the time of sampling by Atlantic Testing.
- Light levels of several mold types were identified from a wall in the cafeteria, a wall in the basement faculty [storage] room and a wall in a storage room.
- Moderate and/or heavy levels of several mold types were identified in particular basement storage rooms and the faculty [storage] room.
- The report recommends that areas impacted with heavy concentrations of mold spores be cleaned and remediated as necessary. Those areas should be contained and cleaned to reduce any airborne mold spores.

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- Basement storage rooms and other basement rooms on the north side of the corridor be contained and examined further in intrusive fashion [our architectural & construction management firm is assisting Peru Central with that task at this time].
- Any absorbent building materials in the storage rooms should be removed and impacted non-absorbent or semi-absorbent materials such as steel or concrete be cleaned using an appropriate water-based solution.
- Use either air conditioning or dehumidifiers during periods of high humidity [such as what we had experienced recently]; periodically inspect for moisture intrusions in that basement area; generally monitor those areas with all of the above in mind.

Summary of Peru Central's Actions and Planned Follow-up

- Basement areas, including the cafeteria, kitchen, toilet rooms, other program spaces and storage rooms were identified as 'off limits', and continue to be 'off limits' at this time.
- Peru Central will move ahead with the recommendations from Atlantic Testing, which are in keeping with recommendations we've received from Champlain Valley Educational Services and our architectural/construction management firm BC&A.
- Many of the miscellaneous, outdated materials and supplies warehoused during recent years in those basement storage rooms will be properly disposed of.
- Some particular items, such as metal furniture items, could be cleaned and re-used.
- Cafeteria services will continue to be provided in the 'cracker box' gymnasium until further notice.
- Overall, the order of priority to remediate, disinfect & re-use basement spaces is as follows:
 - 1st priority: kitchen area;
 - 2nd priority: basement hallway in front of the kitchen's cooler
 - 3rd priority: cafeteria area;
 - 4th priority: basement hallway toilet rooms
- Remediation, cleaning, disinfection and preparation of basement floor rooms will continue until such work is completed.
- Various dehumidifiers will be purchased and deployed, as suitable, after remediation and preparation is completed for a particular basement room.
- The district office will schedule 'walk through' visits with the Principal, collective bargaining unit leaders and the Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds in advance of any particular basement floor room being identified as 'released' for use.
- We will 'work through the process' step by step, until the process is completed. We will not rush the job – we intend to 'do the job right the first time'.

I thought you would appreciate this summary of what was found, what will be done, and what is underway. Thank you!

C: Board of Education
 Peru CSD Administrators, Operations Supervisors, Faculty, Support Staff
 Regional Print and Broadcast Media