



To: RCPS Families and Community Members

Fr: Bill Olsen, Superintendent

Date: November 18, 2022

Re: Asbestos Abatement

Beginning in December 2022 and continuing into September 2024, RCPS is removing asbestos tile floors in several of its buildings and replacing them with durable, easy-to-clean surfaces. The district is using federal ESSER II grant money to pay for the removal of asbestos tile and the installation of new flooring. The intent of this letter is to provide you with general information regarding asbestos removal. The subject of "asbestos" can be very confusing, especially if an individual has never heard of its many applications and uses, nor of the regulations regarding the removal and disposal.

Under the Vermont Regulations for Asbestos Control (V.S.A. Title 18), asbestos abatement projects must be performed within a containment that is isolated from other areas with airtight barriers and accessed through a decontamination chamber. Within this containment, the abatement contractor must operate negative pressure ventilation units with HEPA filtration to create a negative pressure in the containment relative to other areas of the school, which prevents any fibers from escaping. The abatement contractor is required to have enough negative pressure draw within the containment to change the air at least 4 times an hour. The high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters are 99.97% effective in capturing particulates down to 0.3 microns in fiber size. The air observed exhausting outside of the building has been through a HEPA filter. These are the same filters used in hospital operating rooms and at industrial facilities like Global Foundries in their chip-making clean rooms. It is also required in the State of Vermont that the air be exhausted outdoors.

Asbestos decon is a three-stage containment space that attaches to the larger enclosed work area. This allows the workers to remove their street clothes and don the proper PPE (personal protective equipment) prior to entering the work area. When the workers exit the containment, they are required to remove their soiled PPE and shower with soap prior to re-dressing with street clothes. All soiled clothing and PPE must be disposed of as asbestos waste and cannot be thrown into a normal trash receptacle. All water used on an asbestos abatement job is also required to be filtered through a 5-micron filter or be bagged and disposed of with the waste. Water must be added to all waste bags to ensure all materials are adequately wet.

One of the most important pieces of information is that ALL asbestos workers and supervisors are required to receive hours of classroom and hands-on training in order to obtain a license. Any permitted asbestos abatement jobs in the State of Vermont are

subject to random Department of Health inspections, which do occur on a regular basis. The abatement contractor is also taking measures within the containment to minimize the number of fibers released during the removal process by using work practices such as wet methods and maintaining a clean work area throughout the day. Asbestos abatement is done this way following the same regulations since the late 1980s and is considered a safe work practice.

Larger asbestos abatement projects in schools are also subject to a much higher standard for final air clearance. These air clearance samples are analyzed under a TEM (Transmission Electron Microscopy) microscope.

The spaces in RCPS schools that will undergo asbestos removal include:

Building	Location and Totals
Northeast Primary School	Stage 560 sq. feet Classroom 7B 960 sq. feet Total: 1,520 sq. feet
Northwest Primary School	Stage 1,000 sq. feet
Rutland Middle School	Keefe Gym Entrance 280 sq. feet Band Room w/ lobby 3,600 sq. feet Library 1,536 sq. feet Rear entrance lobby 330 sq. feet Room 112 768 sq. feet Girls Locker Rooms (2 total) 420 sq. feet Total: 6,934 sq. feet
Rutland Intermediate Sch.	Auditorium 4,550 sq. feet
Longfellow Building	Back Entrance 100 sq. feet Main Entrance 660 sq. feet First floor: Custodial Closet and Restroom 344 sq. feet Second Floor Restrooms 192 sq. feet IT closet 128 sq. feet Total=1,424 sq. feet
	Total=15,428 sq. feet

Common Terms Associated with Asbestos Abatement:

Asbestos: Naturally occurring fibrous mineral.

ASHARA: Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Reauthorization Act

HEPA: High-Efficiency Particulate Air

Clean Room: An uncontaminated area or room that is part of the contractor's decontamination enclosure system with provisions for storage for the contractor's street clothes and clean protective equipment.

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

Removal: The stripping of any asbestos-containing materials from surfaces or components of a facility or the removal of a component covered with asbestos-containing materials from a facility.

Additional questions can be directed to...

Rob Bliss
Assistant Superintendent
Rutland City Public Schools
6 Church St.
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 786-1942