

## Green Mountain UHS PCB Test Results

June 5, 2023

Dear GMUHS Families and Staff:

We are writing to provide you with an update on the recent testing for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in our school. We understand that this is a lot of information and can be concerning to hear. To help answer any questions you may have, we will be holding a meeting with representatives from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Agency of Education (AOE) and Health Department on Wednesday, June 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the GMUHS Auditorium.

PCBs are a group of human-made chemicals commonly used in building materials and electrical equipment before 1980. PCBs can be released into indoor air from building materials that contain PCBs. PCBs can cause serious health problems. The potential for health effects from PCBs, as with other chemicals, depends on how much, how often, and how long someone is exposed to them.

Indoor air testing for PCBs took place at Green Mountain UHS during the week of April 10, 2023. An environmental consultant collected samples of indoor air that were processed by a laboratory, and then reviewed by the DEC and the Health Department.

## What was found?

The PCB level in several tested rooms and spaces is at or above the Vermont School Action Level for our school:

- 100 ng/m<sup>3</sup> for 7th grade through adult

## Test Results

Approximately one third of all rooms or spaces, such as stairways or hallways, in the school were tested. Rooms and spaces not listed were not tested.

<b>Room or space</b>	<b>Result (ng/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
Main Building, Floor 3, Stairwell 2	600
Main Building, Floor 3, Room 309	560
Main Building, Floor 3, Stairwell 3	500
Main Building, Floor 3, Room 301	360
Main Building, Floor 3, Room 307	360
Main Building, Floor 1, Room 103	340
Main Building, Floor 1, East Hall	320

<b>Room or space</b>	<b>Result (ng/m3)</b>
Main Building, Floor 3, Room 315	310
Main Building, Floor 3, Office 2	290
Main Building, Floor 2, Room 207	280
Main Building, Floor 2, Room 205	270
Main Building, Floor 3, Library	260
Main Building, Floor 1, Room 109	250
Main Building, Floor 1, Entryway 1	240
Main Building, Floor 3, Room 313	230
Main Building, Floor 3, Electrical 1	220
Main Building, Floor 3, Office 1	220
Main Building, Floor 2, Guidance Room	210
Main Building, Floor 1, Electrical 2	170
Main Building, Floor 2, Storage 2	170
Main Building, Floor 3, Custodial 1	170
Main Building, Floor 2, North Hall	150
Main Building, Floor 1, Gym Hall	140
Main Building, Floor 2, Room 212	140
Main Building, Floor 2, Custodial 2	140
Main Building, Floor 2, Room 202	130
Main Building, Floor 2, Mens Bathroom 1	130
Main Building, Floor 2, Mens Bathroom 2	130

<b>Room or space</b>	<b>Result (ng/m3)</b>
Main Building, Floor 1, Womens Bathroom 2	120
Main Building, Floor 2, Room 208	120
Main Building, Floor 3, Womens Bathroom 2	120
Main Building, Floor 1, Elevator Room	110
Main Building, Floor 2, Nurse 1	110
Main Building, Floor 2, Storage 4	110
Main Building, Floor 1, Cafeteria	100
Main Building, Floor 1, Gym	98
Main Building, Floor 1, Kitchen	95
Main Building, Floor 1, Storage 2	95
Main Building, Floor 2, Stairway 2	92
Main Building, Floor 2, Auditorium	91
Main Building, Floor 2, Girls Locker Room	82
Main Building, Floor 2, Office 3	77
Main Building, Floor 1, Room 102	74
Main Building, Floor 1, Room 108	71
Main Building, Floor 1, Boiler Room	4

## **What happens next?**

Our goal and the goal of our state partners is to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Our environmental consultant will work with DEC to identify and address the sources of PCBs. We

have already reached out to our consultant to get this work planned, and we expect this work to start this summer. The Health Department recommends that, while our environmental consultant works with DEC, we lower the exposure of students and staff to PCBs by changing our use of some spaces in our school. We have chosen to take the following next steps:

- The current school year: We will not make changes for the rest of the school year. This decision is supported by the Health Department, DEC and AOE. The Health Department has told us the additional days remaining in the school year will not add much to the overall PCB exposure for students and staff.
- The summer: During this summer, we will change our use of spaces on the first and third floors to reduce exposure to students and staff.
- The 2023 – 2024 school year: We will reassess our use of spaces in the school for the 2023 - 2024 school year later this summer. We should have additional data to help understand how to best reduce PCB exposures in our school, and we will update you as soon as we have more information.
- Environmental consultant: We have hired an environmental consultant to identify sources of PCBs in the school and address those sources to lower the levels of PCBs in indoor air.
- State agencies: We are working with the State agencies as we develop a plan to address impacted rooms. As soon as we have that plan finalized, we will share it with the school community.
- Community meeting: We will hold a meeting with representatives from the DEC, AOE and the Health Department on Wednesday, June 7 at 5:30pm in the GMUHS Auditorium.

## Questions?

- Find more information about PCBs, including the complete test results, at [dec.vermont.gov/pcb-schools](https://dec.vermont.gov/pcb-schools).
- For testing and test result questions, email [SOV.PCBSampling@vermont.gov](mailto:SOV.PCBSampling@vermont.gov).
- For health-related questions, email [AHS.VDHPCHSchoolSampling@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHPCHSchoolSampling@vermont.gov).

Sincerely,

Lauren Fierman, TRSU Superintendent of Schools

Todd Parah, GMUHS Facilities Director