



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**CAREY UPTON**  
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

310-450-8338 x79383  
cupton@smmusd.org

Nov. 6, 2019

**INTERIM PCB SAFEGUARD MEASURES - UPDATE**  
**Malibu High School**

SMMUSD has implemented a series of interim measures to safeguard students and staff from exposure to Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) while we work to rebuild Malibu High School.

**Confirmatory Air & Wipe Sampling**

The District has continued to regularly conduct confirmatory air and wipe testing to ensure there is no risk to the health of students or staff posed by exposure to PCBs. Air and wipe testing is scheduled four times a year. All high uses spaces (over four hours of use per school day) with known or assumed PCBs over 50 ppm (parts per million) are tested at least once a year. All other high use spaces are tested once every two years. There is a strict protocol for testing conditions and process. Air and wipe sampling has occurred on January 2, April 17, July 30 and September 28 in 2019. (For results, please see attached spreadsheet)

The risk to health from the presence of PCBs depends, among other factors, on the level of exposure. Exposure from PCBs in building materials comes from either inhalation or ingestion of dust and other materials that have come in contact with PCBs. Air and wipe samples are taken to assess the level of potential exposure.

The SMMUSD self-imposed action level for air samples is 200 ng/m<sup>3</sup>. This is lower than the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level for high school students of 600 ng/m<sup>3</sup> or 500 ng/m<sup>3</sup> for adults. The action level for wipe samples is 1 µg/100cm<sup>2</sup>. Results exceeding the action level require cleaning, closing the space, reducing use below high use, and/or re-testing per existing protocols.

During regularly scheduled confirmatory testing of the school in July 2019, we had two air samples that exceeded the self-imposed action level for total PCBs of 200 ng/m<sup>3</sup> in Building J in the Girls' Coach Office (Room 705) and Athletic Director Office (Room 704) with detected concentrations of 230 ng/m<sup>3</sup> and 340 ng/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. However, neither of these samples exceed EPA's applicable Exposure Levels for Evaluating PCBs in Indoor School Air of 600 ng/m<sup>3</sup> for high school students or 500 ng/m<sup>3</sup> for adults. Neither of these two rooms are classified as high use rooms as they are used for less than four hours per school day. Room 705 is primarily used for library book storage and Room 706 is an office that is not used for extended periods. Neither room is regularly occupied for office purposes by athletic department staff.

The areas were cleaned and retested. The new results show all air samples to be non-detect above the laboratory reporting limits; indicating that the cleaning protocols implemented were successful. Thus, the rooms are safely reopened for use, but will not be used as offices or for other high use activities.

All other air samples were below SMMUSD's self-imposed action level or not detected above laboratory reporting limits.

Link to sampling: <http://fip.smmusd.org/sites-malibu.html>

### **Other Interim Measures**

- *Caulking over Caulk*  
A different color of caulk has been placed over visible caulking around windows, doors and vents with known or assumed levels of PCBs over 50 ppm. The areas will continue to be inspected annually.
- *Repair Tiling*  
Maintenance staff has inspected the flooring in all rooms with known or assumed tiling/mastic with PCBs over 50 ppm. Broken or missing tiles were repaired or encapsulated. The areas will continue to be inspected annually.
- *Shellac Paneling*  
All plywood walls stained with shellac in the Special Education/Shops building (Bldg. G) that were not previously painted have now been painted to reduce dermal contact.
- *Best Management Practices cleaning (BMPs)*  
BMP cleaning continues daily, monthly and annually.

### **Next Steps**

We are closing in on a plan to rebuild Malibu Middle and High Schools. It is anticipated that the Board of Education will direct staff to proceed with the plan at their meeting on Nov. 7, 2019. Confirmation of the first phase of construction will allow us to move forward with a plan to demolish, vacate, abate or encapsulate all rooms with PCBs over 50 ppm.

#### *Completed:*

- Library (Bldg. A), Admin (Bldg. B), Middle School (Bldg. E) buildings demolished
- Most of upper floor of Main Two Story building (Bldg. D) vacated
- Juan Cabrillo Elementary School fully abated, no known or assumed PCBs

#### *Proposed Plan at this time:*

- Music building (Bldg. F): Orchestra room and custodial closet flooring to be abated, encapsulated and replaced (Summer 2020)
- Art building (Bldg. I): Dark room flooring to be replaced and encapsulated (Summer 2020)
- Theater/Kitchen (Bldg. H): Three door/window systems and one air vent to be abated and replaced (Summer 2020)

- Old Gym (Bldg. J): Three doors to gym to be abated and replaced; Team room, Athletic Director's office, Girls' and Boy' Coaches Offices (703, 704, 705, 722) to be vacated (Summer 2020)
- Main Two-story building (Bldg. D): fully vacated and demolished (Summer 2020)
- Special Education/Shops (Bldg. G): Shops to be vacated (Summer 2020), Special Education vacated (Winter 2021), demolished (Summer 2022)

The abovementioned activities should be completed by Dec. 31, 2020, and assuming no schedule delays, at that point in time the District will no longer be using any rooms containing known building materials greater than 50 ppm PCBs. The original court order required this work to be completed by Dec. 31, 2019. The District requested and was granted a five-year extension until Dec. 31, 2024 due to the new plan to re-build the schools and the passage of Measure M. This work will complete the requirements of the court order four years early and only one year after the original deadline.

Please contact Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, [cupton@smmusd.org](mailto:cupton@smmusd.org) if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Carey Upton