

Miller Place Union Free School District

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April 28, 2019

RE: MPHS Gymnasium

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

This past Wednesday, the District was made aware of a possible situation concerning what we believe to be the original synthetic flooring that was used in the gymnasium when the high school was built back in the 1970s. The synthetic material used at that time contained mercury. In the late 1990s, the synthetic floor was encapsulated and covered over with wood flooring.

Based on information provided to the District, that there might be the possibility that the original synthetic flooring, or encapsulation materials, could be degrading, the District requested that its environmental and testing consultant conduct air testing for mercury vapor in the gymnasium, as well as the auditorium, under the stage, in the girls and boys locker rooms, the weight room, the corridor from the boys locker room to the cafeteria, and the ambient levels outside the school. While the District believes the synthetic material in question was only used in the gymnasium, testing was done in these other interior areas due to their proximity to the gymnasium.

The testing conducted on Thursday afternoon/evening did reveal recordable levels of mercury vapor in the gym, girls' locker room, the auditorium and under the stage. It is important to note that there are no federal or New York State standards for mercury vapor levels in school buildings. Only the state of Minnesota has issued guidelines for school floorings and exposure levels for students and adults. Using the Minnesota standards, only the gymnasium exceeded the guideline limits.

Beginning Friday and through Saturday evening the District, with the assistance of our environmental and other consultants, began the process of remedying this situation by securing the entire interior of the gym and retesting the other areas noted above. All areas, with the exception of the gymnasium, have cleared all air monitoring and testing.

As a precautionary measure, and based on the advice of the District's environmental consultants, the District is keeping the gymnasium closed, and restricting all access, until further testing is conducted and a plan of action based on the results of that testing is determined.

All activities normally taking place or scheduled in the high school gymnasium will be relocated to other areas. This includes all physical education classes, during the school day activities, athletic practices, matches and games, and use of facilities by outside organizations. Students and/or parents will be notified of the location changes upon the students' return to school this week.

Please note, the music concert schedule, North Country Road Middle School drama production, award ceremonies and other meetings scheduled to take place in the auditorium do not need to be rescheduled and will take place according to their schedules.

The health and safety of our students, faculty and all who visit our schools remains our top priority. As we move forward with this process, we will keep the community informed accordingly. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to reopen the gymnasium to normal use as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools