



Environmental & Industrial Hygiene

Field Services...

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...**Solutions**

January 12, 2020

REFERENCE: **Carnell School Ready for Re-Occupancy**
Carnell Elementary School – ULCS #7220
1100 Devereaux Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111

Carnell Staff and Families,

From December 19-23, 2019, a comprehensive AHERA inspection was performed in Carnell Elementary School by Criterion Laboratories (Criterion). During this inspection, various areas were found with damaged asbestos-containing materials. While the majority of these areas had small amounts of damage (cracked seams, small gouges etc.), with no visible debris, twelve (12) areas were identified as imminent hazards. Additional inspections were performed throughout the project by Criterion, OEMS, and on some occasions, in conjunction with the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers (PFT). These inspections identified additional areas where further work would need to be performed.

On December 24, 2019, the School District of Philadelphia mobilized its in-house asbestos abatement team to the school. From December 24, 2019, through January 12, 2020, district workers completed repairs and removals in approximately 150 areas throughout the school. Criterion consulted with OEMS and facilities to prioritize areas based on various factors such as damage, accessibility, potential for further damage, and whether the area is student/teacher-occupied. Workers began removal and cleanup operations on all of the imminent hazard areas. When these imminent hazard areas were cleaned, abated, and tested, work continued throughout other areas of the building.

Over this period, workers were able to clean and abate all student and teacher-occupied areas, using the procedures outlined by the City of Philadelphia Asbestos Control Regulations (ACR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A combination of Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) and Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) air sampling, which are beyond industry best practices, were performed throughout the building. **All sample results fell within EPA and City of Philadelphia regulations for re-occupancy.** Due to the time constraints, abatement in five (5) closets has not been

completed. These five (5) areas are **NOT** student or teacher-occupied; and have been completely isolated from the rest of the school with two (2) layers of six (6) millimeter plastic sheeting, which creates an airtight seal between the closets and the occupied portions of the building. These five areas are locked with a padlock and will be abated in the near future. Abatement will occur during off school hours and weekends when the building is not occupied by teachers or students.

Representatives from the PFT's Health and Welfare Fund were invited to conduct any additional testing over the weekend so as not to further delay the re-opening of school for students and staff. This testing would also go *beyond* current industry best practices which are followed by the School District. The PFT conducted one additional test (B1 - classroom and closet) and the results confirmed the area to be safe for re-occupancy.

All project and testing information is accessible on the school's website at philasd.org/carnell.

Sincerely,

Ian Forster
Project Manager
Criterion Laboratories

Brian Joseph
Executive Director, Office of Environmental Management
School District of Philadelphia