



November 22, 2024

Dare County Schools
Ian Adams
3020 S. Wrightsville Avenue
Nags Head, NC

**Re: Limited Indoor Air Quality Sampling with Airborne Fungal Sampling at Cape Hatteras
Secondary School
LRC Project – 24-3289**

At your request, on November 16, 2024, LRC Indoor Testing & Research, Inc. (LRC) performed a limited environmental fungal Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) sampling that included airborne fungal sampling at the property listed above.

LRC performs all water-damage and fungal investigations with sampling and recommendations in accordance with guidelines published in *Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control*, by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), in *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings* by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and in the currently recognized and accepted industry standards including the ANSI/IICRC S500 *Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration*, Fourth Edition (S500) and the ANSI/IICRC S520 *Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation*, Third Edition (S520).

Our inspection included the following:

1. Measure temperature and relative humidity indoors and outdoors.
2. Collect representative non-viable spore trap air samples indoors and one outdoors for comparison.
3. Collect representative Particle Counts, Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide counts at locations where air samples are collected.
4. Provide a written report describing the survey results and comparing those results to accepted guidelines and directives. This report includes a summary of data and Certificates of Laboratory Analysis.

BACKGROUND

This inspection was limited to non-viable spore trap air samples, particle counts, CO and CO² measurements that were collected from locations selected at random throughout the building. Descriptions in this report are based on looking at the structure from the street front. Moisture measurements and visual inspections were not conducted on this day.



Outdoor Air Sample



Air Sample in Auditorium



Air Sample in Cafeteria



Air Sample in Media Center



Air Sample in Office



Air Sample in Hallway



Air Sample in Classroom



Air Sample in Classroom

SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

Air Samples:

Currently there are no regulations regarding acceptable airborne fungal levels. Airborne fungal spores are ubiquitous in the outdoor and indoor environment. The guidelines followed in this report for the assessment and/or remediation of airborne and surface fungi are published in *Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control*, by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), in *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings* by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), in *Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Indoor Mold* by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), and in the ANSI/IICRC S520 *Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation*, Third Edition (S520). Airborne fungal assessments are performed by comparing results from volumetric samples taken indoors to samples taken outdoors. Airborne fungi levels in non-problem indoor environments generally are less than or approximately the same as that outdoors and also show a similar composition and/or taxonomic predominance. Problems are usually implicated in the indoor air when one or more fungal genera or species are present in a much greater concentration indoors compared to outdoors. Sampling results are shown in the Certificates of Laboratory Analysis attached to this report. Results are discussed below.

Temperature and Relative Humidity

Temperature and relative humidity readings were recorded by the Lighthouse Handheld 3016 Particle Counter. ASHRAE Standard 55 for thermal comfort suggested that the indoor temperature should be between 73°F to 79°F in the summer and 68°F to 75°F in the winter and that the indoor relative humidity should be between 20% to 65%.

The temperature and relative humidity are summarized in Table A below. The relative humidity met the current ASHRAE Standard to maintain indoor relative humidity below 65%.

SAMPLING RESULTS

Total Non-Viable Spore Air Sample Results:

Representative samples were taken for total airborne fungal spores with a calibrated Buck spore trap. Total airborne fungal spore sample volumes were 75-liters. The outdoor total fungal spore level (Sample 24) was measured at 9173 Spores/m³ and was comprised of Ascospores (78%), *Cladosporium* (9%), Basidiospores (5%), Smuts (3%) and 2% or less of various other fungal spores. The air sample results are summarized below in Table A.

Table A – Air Sampling Results

Sample #	Location	Total Airborne Spore Count (Spores/m³)	*Non-Fungal Background Particulate Level	Temperature °F	Relative Humidity %
01	Hall at Admin	227	Low-moderate	72	53
02	Cafeteria	40	Low	77	45
03	Hall at CR 302	67	Low	75	48
04	CR 307	120	Low	75	49
05	Hall at CR 318	200	Low-moderate	75	51
06	CR 320	40	Low	75	48
07	Hall at Media Center	147	Low-moderate	76	53
08	Media Center	80	Low-moderate	75	51
09	Hall at 153	107	Low	76	51
10	Gym	53	Low	75	50
11	Aux. Gym	53	Low	76	49
12	Hall at 149	53	Low	78	47
13	CR 317	53	Low	75	49
14	Music Room	80	Low-moderate	75	46
15	Auditorium	27	Low	76	46
16	Hall at CR 205	93	Low	77	48
17	CR 210	147	Low-moderate	78	45
18	Hall at 352	53	Low	78	48
19	Hall at 359	40	Low-moderate	76	48
20	CR 360	40	Low	76	48
21	CR 364	80	Low	75	48
22	Auditorium Dress. Rm	200	Low-moderate	75	66
23	Hall at Weight Room	213	Low-moderate	76	52
24	Outdoor Air	9173	Low-moderate	77	45

*The Background Particulate Level refers to non-fungal debris seen in the air sample; such as skin cells, hair, fibers, dust, dirt, etc.

The total fungal spore counts in the areas sampled indoors were lower than that found in the outdoor air. The types of fungal spores found in the indoor air samples were all common outdoor-

type fungi present in low concentrations with no spikes in water loss fungi. Therefore, the results suggested a normal indoor fungal ecology in the areas sampled.

The particulate in the indoor air samples was in the Low range. The particulate that we see in the microscope at the magnification used is usually called ‘course particulate’ and consist of many things and can include the following: dirt, dust, mold, pollen, fiber, hair, skin cells, dust mites and other insects. Fine particulates (to include VOC’s – volatile organic compounds) are not seen with the magnification used for these samples.

PARTICLE COUNT METHODOLOGY

A Lighthouse Handheld 3016 Particle Counter was used to measure the levels of airborne particulates. Airborne particles are solids suspended in the air. In a commercial setting, particle levels should be significantly less than outside readings due to better filtration and better dilution with outside air.

PARTICLE COUNT RESULTS

Table B below summarizes the minimum, maximum, and average particle count in the building in each size category during the sampling period. Each time one liter of air was drawn into the Particle Counter, and the Particle Counter calculated all particles that are greater than or equal to the particle size indicated in the size categories.

Table B – Indoor Particle Count Sampling Results

	0.3 micron	0.5 micron	1.0 micron	2.5 micron	5.0 micron	10.0 micron
Minimum	2906	282	29	5	2	0
Maximum	8133	475	195	60	23	19
Average	4259	440	91	26	9	4

Table C below summarizes the average particle count in the outdoor air at the time of sampling. Each time one liter of air was drawn into the Particle Counter, and the Particle Counter calculated all particles that are greater than or equal to the particle size indicated in the size categories. In addition, temperature and relative humidity information were included.

Table C – Outdoor Particle Count Sampling Results

	0.3 micron	0.5 micron	1.0 micron	2.5 micron	5.0 micron	10.0 micron
Outdoor Air Average	4702	440	91	26	9	4

CARBON MONOXIDE AND CARBON DIOXIDE METHODOLOGY

A TSI IAQ-Calc Indoor Air Quality Meter (Model 7545) was used to measure the concentrations of CO and CO₂. CO is a dangerous gas caused by incomplete combustion. The level of CO in an indoor environment should be low (none detected to 4 parts per million [ppm] depending on fuel sources used indoors) or same as outdoors. CO₂ is commonly used as an indicator of ventilation adequacy. American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 62.1 stated that the indoor concentration of CO₂ should be less than 700 ppm over the outdoor ambient air, which typically is around 400 ppm.

CARBON MONOXIDE AND CARBON DIOXIDE RESULTS

The average CO₂ concentration indoors was similar to the CO₂ concentration outdoors. In addition, the indoor CO₂ concentrations were measured at low ppm in all locations. Therefore, the results suggested that the indoor CO₂ concentrations were within normal ranges. Therefore, the results suggested that the ventilation in the areas sampled was adequate.

CONCLUSIONS

Results as reported by LRC apply only to the day of this inspection. LRC cannot and does not warrant that other parts of the structure were completely free or that the structure will remain free in the future from hidden sources of moisture or fungal contamination.

This inspection was limited to indoor air quality parameters. The indoor air samples did not show a fungal amplification or an altered indoor fungal ecology on this day. Relative humidity was in the recommended range. Particle counts were generally lower than that found in the outdoor air. Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide levels were within the normal recommended range. This inspection was limited to indoor air quality.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Tony Richmond, BBA, CAI, WRT
LRC Indoor Testing & Research



Mitchell Richmond, B.A, PMP, CMI
LRC Indoor Testing & Research