



Max Page, President

Deb McCarthy, Vice President

Mike Fadel, Executive Director-Treasurer

To: Renée Bock, President, Pembroke Teachers Association
From: Scott Fulmer, MTA EH&S Representative/Organizer
Re: Pembroke HS, PCMS, and PEH surface mold test results
Date: February 27, 2025

The Massachusetts Teachers Association is proud to provide technical assistance to the Pembroke Teachers Association to help fulfill the terms of its contractual memorandum of agreement with the Pembroke school committee to assess the presence of mold in the district buildings.

On February 7, and on February 13, the MTA EH&S Rep was on site at the school buildings: the Pembroke High School (PHS; 2/7), the Pembroke Community Middle School (PCMS; 2/7), and the Hobomock Elementary School (HES; 2/7, 2/13). Surface samples of locations of suspected mold growth provided by PTA building representatives were taken with a sterile swab and sent to the Eurofins laboratory in Marlton, NJ, for analysis. The findings are presented in the pages that follow.

Summary and recommended actions based on findings

Twenty-two surface samples were taken. Light to moderate mold growth was present in 19 samples, and, of those 19, in 3 samples the growth was only minimal. Two samples detected no mold. Two samples detected heavy mold growth. Swab samples are meant to identify mold species and growth and are not as reliable as tape samples to determine concentration levels.

The surfaces with heavy mold growth should be sanitized as soon as possible: the vent in the ceiling of the art supply closet in PHS, and the sink in the nurse's office in HES.

The Joint Labor/Management Committee on Mold and Air Quality should determine the timetable and monitor progress for sanitizing the locations with light to medium mold growth.

Mold was either not detected or found in light to medium concentration in the carpets sampled in any of the buildings. Stained ceiling tiles in all buildings should be replaced.

PCMS: Cladosporium was detected consistently in PCMS in light to medium concentration. Ceiling tiles in those areas should be replaced or HEPA vacuumed. Carpets should continue to be HEPA vacuumed. Exposed piping in plenum above ceiling tiles should be insulated.

PHS: There was visible mold inside a thermal pane glass window in copy room of PES, and an office below the copy room. Because of its location, it was impossible to sample, but visible mold growth indicated these materials should be replaced. The sample taken from the window frame showed light growth. Wipe the non-porous wall and counter surfaces in the kitchen attached to room A731 with an EPA approved antifungal and disinfectant for mold growth. Chaetomium was detected at the baseboard of the kitchen under the sink and is considered target mold species not tolerable at any concentration level. Paint containers in art rooms with visible mold should be discarded. The ceiling vent in the art room closet should be sanitized. A chemical hygiene plan for art and science materials should be developed that assesses task-



based exposures to and methods for labeling and handling all chemicals. PTA members should have input into the plan and be trained in chemical hazard handling and communication. The health and safety committee can organize the training.

HES: There was visible *Aspergillus/Penicillium* type mold growth in room 275 that should be sanitized as soon as possible. Use EPA approved antifungal and disinfectant for mold growth to sanitize the nurse's office sink. The Joint Labor/Management Committee should determine the protocol for preventive cleaning measures so mold growth on non-porous surfaces like the sink do not recur. The samples taken from carpets indicated little if any mold growth. Continue to clean and vacuum. Wipe non-porous surfaces with EPA approved antifungal and disinfectant for mold growth around windowsills, picture and black or whiteboard frames.

The following tables show the findings per building. The mold grades are defined on the last page. The Appendix to this memo includes the lab analysis reports and is attached to this memo.



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PHS

February 7, 2025

| Room # | Location | General impression | | Mold growth |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | | Grade | Species, type, or group | |
| A173 kitchen | Splash guard | 2+ | Unknown | Yes |
| A173 kitchen | Baseboard under sink | 1+ | Unknown, some Chaetomium spores | Yes |
| A173 | Above ceiling tile | 1+ | Unknown | Yes |
| Art room | Acrylic paint tub lid 1 | 2+ | Cladosporium | Yes |
| Art room | Acrylic paint tub lid 2 | 2+ | Unknown | Yes |
| Art room | Small paint dish 1 | 2+ | Unknown | Yes |
| Art room | Small paint dish 2 | 1+ | Unknown | Yes |
| Art room | Ceiling vent in closet | 3+ | Cladosporium | Yes |
| Copy room | Window frame | 1+ | Unknown | Yes |

PCMS

February 7, 2025

| Room # | Location | General impression | | Mold growth |
|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | | Grade | Species, type, or group | |
| Room 219 | Dry, stained tile | <1+ | Unknown | Minimal |
| Teachers Room | Stained tile | 1+ | Cladosporium | Yes |
| Room B032 | Carpet | 1+ | Cladosporium | Yes |
| Room B032 | Above ceiling tile | 2+ | Cladosporium | Yes |
| Room Bo26 | Above ceiling tile next to AC unit | 2+ | Cladosporium | Yes |



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HES

February 7, 2025

| Room # | Location | General impression | | Mold growth |
|----------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | | Grade | Species, type, or group | |
| Nurse's office | Sink | 4+ | Unknown | Yes |
| Room 105 | Vent | 1+ | Unknown | Yes |

February 13, 2025

| Room # | Location | General impression | | Mold growth |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | | Grade | Species, type, or group | |
| Room 275 | Wall | 2+ | Penicillium/Aspergillus group | Yes |
| Swiboda's office | Carpet | - | Not detected | No |
| Teachers room 1 | Carpet | - | Not detected | No |
| Teachers room 2 | Carpet near baseboard | <1+ | Unknown | Minimal |
| LIR | Carpet | <1+ | Unknown | Minimal |
| Teachers room 2 | Top of picture frame | 1+ | Unknown | Yes |



The mold grade scale:

< 1+ (Very Light Growth) Evidence of very light growth observed on the sample as indicated by spores of one type seen with underlying mycelial and/or with their sporulating structures found in less than 10% of the microscopic fields examined.

1+ (Light Growth) Evidence of light growth observed on the sample as indicated by spores of one type seen with underlying mycelial and/or with their sporulating structures found in 10 to 25% of the microscopic fields examined.

2+ (Moderate Growth) Evidence of moderate growth observed on the sample as indicated by spores of one type seen with underlying mycelial and/or with their sporulating structures found in 26 to 50% of the microscopic fields examined.

3+ (Heavy Growth) Evidence of heavy growth observed on the sample as indicated by spores of one type seen with underlying mycelial and/or with their sporulating structures found in 51 to 75% of the microscopic fields examined.

4+ (Very Heavy Growth) Evidence of very heavy growth observed on the sample as indicated by spores of one type seen with underlying mycelial and/or with their sporulating structures found to be nearly confluent in the majority of the microscopic fields examined.

Appendix

PHS

Eurofins Built Environment Testing East, LLC
3000 Lincoln Drive East, Suite A, Marlton, NJ 08053
(866) 871-1984 www.eurofinsus.com/Built

Client: Massachusetts Teachers Association
C/O: Scott Fulmer
Re: Pembroke High School; Select Surface Mold
Samples in Pembroke Schools

Date of Sampling: 02-07-2025
Date of Receipt: 02-12-2025
Date of Report: 02-14-2025

DIRECT MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION REPORT

| Background Debris and/or Description | Miscellaneous Spores Present* | MOLD GROWTH: Molds seen with underlying mycelial and/or sporulating structures† | Other Comments†† | General Impression |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| Lab ID-Version: 19590776-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 6: Room A173 Kitchen Splash Guard Moderate | None | 2+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590777-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 7: Room A173 Kitchen Baseboard Under Sink Moderate | Very few | 1+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | A few <i>Chaetomium</i> spores detected. | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590778-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 8: Room A173 Above Ceiling Tile Moderate | Very few | 1+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590779-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 9: Art Room Acrylic Paint Tub Lid 1 Moderate | Very few | 2+ <i>Cladosporium</i> species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590780-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 10: Art Room Acrylic Paint Tub Lid 2 Moderate | None | 2+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590781-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 11: Art Room Small Paint Dish 1 Heavy | None | 2+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590782-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 12: Art Room Small Paint Dish 2 Moderate | None | 1+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590783-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 13: Art Room Ceiling Vent in Closet Moderate | None | 3+ <i>Cladosporium</i> species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |

| Background Debris and/or Description | Miscellaneous Spores Present* | MOLD GROWTH: Molds seen with underlying mycelial and/or sporulating structures† | Other Comments†† | General Impression |
|--|-------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Lab ID-Version‡: 19590784-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 14: Copy Room Window Frame | | | | |
| Light | None | 1+ Unknown species (hyphae) | None | Mold growth |

* Indicative of normal conditions, i.e. seen on surfaces everywhere. Includes basidiospores (mushroom spores), myxomycetes, plant pathogens such as ascospores, rusts and smuts, and a mix of saprophytic genera with no particular spore type predominating. Distribution of spore types seen mirrors that usually seen outdoors.

† Quantities of molds seen growing are listed in the MOLD GROWTH column and are graded <1+ to 4+, with 4+ denoting the highest numbers.

†† Some comments may refer to the following: Most surfaces collect a mix of spores which are normally present in the outdoor environment. At times it is possible to note a skewing of the distribution of spore types, and also to note "marker" genera which may indicate indoor mold growth. Marker genera are those spore types which are present normally in very small numbers, but which multiply indoors when conditions are favorable for growth.

‡ A "Version" indicated by "-x" after the Lab ID# with a value greater than 1 indicates a sample with amended data. The revision number is reflected by the value of "x".
The limit of detection is < 1+ when mold growth is detected.

For additional information necessary for the interpretation of the results, all readers are advised to refer to the document "Direct Exam Details Page" which is available on our website at:
www.emlab.com/services/mold-testing/direct-microscopic-exam-qualitative/

PCMS

Eurofins Built Environment Testing East, LLC
3000 Lincoln Drive East, Suite A, Marlton, NJ 08053
(866) 871-1984 www.eurofinsus.com/Built

Client: Massachusetts Teachers Association
C/O: Scott Fulmer
Re: Pembroke Community Middle School; Select
Surface Mold Samples in Pembroke Schools

Date of Sampling: 02-07-2025
Date of Receipt: 02-12-2025
Date of Report: 02-14-2025

DIRECT MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION REPORT

| Background Debris and/or Description | Miscellaneous Spores Present* | MOLD GROWTH: Molds seen with underlying mycelial and/or sporulating structures† | Other Comments†† | General Impression |
|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|
| Lab ID-Version‡: 19590826-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 1: Room 219 - Dry Stained Tile | | | | |
| Light | None | < 1+ Unknown species (hyphae) | None | Minimal mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590827-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 2: Teachers Room Ally - Stained Tile | | | | |
| Light | None | 1+ <i>Cladosporium</i> species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590828-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 3: Room B032 - Carpet | | | | |
| Light | None | 1+ <i>Cladosporium</i> species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590829-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 4: Room B032 - Above Ceiling Tile | | | | |
| Light | None | 2+ <i>Cladosporium</i> species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19590830-1, Analysis Date: 02/14/2025: Swab sample 5: Room B026 Above Ceiling Tile Next to AC Unit in Ceiling | | | | |
| Moderate | None | 2+ <i>Cladosporium</i> species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |

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The limit of detection is < 1+ when mold growth is detected.

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HES

Client: Massachusetts Teachers Association
C/O: Scott Fulmer
Re: Hobomock Elementary; Soreace Mold Samples in
Pembroke Schools

Eurofins Built Environment Testing East, LLC
3000 Lincoln Drive East, Suite A, Marlton, NJ 08053
(866) 871-1984 www.eurofinsus.com/Built
Date of Sampling: 02-07-2025
Date of Receipt: 02-12-2025
Date of Report: 02-14-2025

DIRECT MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION REPORT

| Background Debris and/or Description | Miscellaneous Spores Present* | MOLD GROWTH: Molds seen with underlying mycelial and/or sporulating structures† | Other Comments†† | General Impression |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|
| Light | None | 2+ <i>Penicillium/Aspergillus</i> group (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Scant | None | None | None | No mold spores detected |
| Scant | None | None | None | No mold spores detected |
| Moderate | None | < 1+ Unknown species (hyphae) | None | Minimal mold growth |
| Light | None | < 1+ Unknown species (hyphae) | None | Minimal mold growth |
| Light | None | 1+ Unknown species (hyphae) | None | Mold growth |

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The limit of detection is < 1+ when mold growth is detected.

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Eurofins Built Environment Testing East, LLC
 3000 Lincoln Drive East, Suite A, Marlton, NJ 08053
 (866) 871-1984 www.eurofinsus.com/Built

Client: Massachusetts Teachers Association
 C/O: Scott Fulmer
 Re: Hobomock Quarterly February 2025; 2 swab samples

Date of Sampling: 02-13-2025
 Date of Receipt: 02-17-2025
 Date of Report: 02-19-2025

DIRECT MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION REPORT

| Background Debris and/or Description | Miscellaneous Spores Present* | MOLD GROWTH: Molds seen with underlying mycelial and/or sporulating structures† | Other Comments†† | General Impression |
|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Lab ID-Version‡: 19605787-1, Analysis Date: 02/19/2025: Swab sample 1: Nurses office sink | | | | |
| Heavy | None | 4+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |
| Lab ID-Version: 19605788-1, Analysis Date: 02/19/2025: Swab sample 2: Room 105 vent | | | | |
| Heavy | Few | 1+ Unknown species (spores, hyphae) | None | Mold growth |

* Indicative of normal conditions, i.e. seen on surfaces everywhere. Includes basidiospores (mushroom spores), myxomycetes, plant pathogens such as ascospores, rusts and smuts, and a mix of saprophytic genera with no particular spore type predominating. Distribution of spore types seen mirrors that usually seen outdoors.

† Quantities of molds seen growing are listed in the MOLD GROWTH column and are graded <1+ to 4+, with 4+ denoting the highest numbers.

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 The limit of detection is < 1+ when mold growth is detected.

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