



April 13, 2021

Joe Crelier, Director–Risk Management
Portland Public Schools
501 N Dixon Street
Portland, Oregon

Via email: jcrelier@pps.net

Regarding: COVID Response Indoor Air Quality Testing Report
Abernethy Elementary School
2421 SE Orange Avenue
Portland, Oregon
PBS Project 25000.138

Dear Mr. Crelier:

On April 6, 2021, PBS Engineering and Environmental Inc. (PBS) performed indoor air quality testing in Abernethy Elementary School located at the address above. These services were provided to Portland Public Schools (District) to measure air quality parameters before schools and district-owned buildings are opened again for reoccupancy.

As part of these indoor air quality testing services, PBS measured carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (°F), relative humidity (%RH), and airborne particulate (PM2.5 and PM10). Additionally, PBS reviewed and inventoried accessible components of the test rooms' heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems

PBS observed six rooms with open windows throughout the school, which likely led to the increased temperature readings. Monitor these rooms for temperature complaints as the seasons change and adjust thermostats accordingly. Additionally, five rooms in the investigation tested above the recommended ambient airborne particulate concentrations; however, when compared to the ambient outdoor concentrations these results do not present an actionable condition. The results of the testing and assessment indicates that indoor air quality in the building is good and that the building is acceptable for occupancy.

While PBS observed no measurable indoor air quality concerns in any of the rooms that were tested, PBS did not test every occupiable room in each building. This investigation has been performed in concert with a concerted effort on the part of the District to perform regular inspections and repair of all HVAC mechanical systems throughout the District. Additionally, it is the District's policy that rooms without adequate ventilation will not be utilized moving forward.

VENTILATION PARAMETERS AND AIRBORNE PARTICULATE MONITORING

PBS took spot measurements of ventilation parameters in approximately 20% of the classrooms, offices, and common areas in the building (or each building). The readings were compared to recommendations in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 62.1-2016, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality.

PBS used a TSI VelociCalc 9565 ventilation meter to measure temperature, %RH, CO, and CO₂. A TSI Aerotrak 9306-V2 optical particle counter was used to measure airborne particulate. The table below summarizes the results of the testing. Readings above or below the ASHRAE recommendations are shown in bold.

IAQ Testing Results

Room	CO	CO ₂	Temp. (°F)	%RH	PM2.5	PM10	HVAC
Outdoor Air (Pre)	0.0	457	65.3	24.0	0.049	0.016	N/A
Portable 3A	0.0	496	68.7	28.9	0.027	0.010	Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Conditioner, Air Purifier
Portable 4A	0.0	492	68.7	29.5	0.008	0.002	Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Conditioner, Air Purifier
Outdoor Air (Intermediate)	0.0	468	66.4	25.6	0.058	0.020	N/A
Classroom 2A	0.0	503	69.0	29.2	0.064	0.020	Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Conditioner, Air Purifier
Classroom 3	0.0	484	69.3	33.0	0.002	0.000	Wall Plenum, Return Air, Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Conditioner, Air Purifier
Room 5A, Counselor	0.0	507	72.7	34.0	0.006	0.000	Operable Windows, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier
Lunch Room	0.0	472	76.3	24.4	0.011	0.002	Supply Air, Exterior Doors, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier
Kitchen	0.0	483	75.1	20.2	0.044	0.011	Supply Air, Operable Windows, Exterior Doors, Hood
Auditorium	0.0	499	76.4	34.4	0.048	0.021	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Exterior Doors, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier
Gymnasium	0.0	475	77.8	23.6	0.008	0.001	Supply and Return Air, Exterior Doors, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier

Room	CO	CO ₂	Temp. (°F)	%RH	PM2.5	PM10	HVAC
Main Office 6A	0.0	534	76.7	23.0	0.045	0.015	Wall Plenum, Operable Windows, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier, Air Conditioner
Health Room	0.0	482	75.3	23.4	0.019	0.008	Operable Windows, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier
Classroom 9	0.0	486	72.5	21.6	0.009	0.004	Wall Plenum, Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Purifier
Classroom 12	0.0	464	72.2	25.8	0.004	0.001	Wall Plenum, Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Conditioner, Air Purifier
Faculty Lounge 13A	0.0	485	73.5	23.2	0.027	0.009	Supply and Return Air, Operable Windows, Radiant Heat
Library	0.0	473	74.6	21.6	0.037	0.012	Operable Windows, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier
Classroom 19	0.0	480	78.1	21.5	0.008	0.002	Wall Plenum, Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Purifier
2nd Floor Counselor Office	0.0	503	78.0	22.1	0.002	0.000	Operable Windows, Radiant Heat, Air Purifier
Classroom 14	0.0	474	74.9	19.0	0.029	0.009	Wall Plenum, Operable Windows, Unit Ventilator, Air Conditioner, Air Purifier
Outdoor Air (Post)	0.0	460	70.5	21.9	0.056	0.020	N/A

CO and CO₂ are presented in parts per million (ppm)

°F: degrees Fahrenheit

%RH: relative humidity

PM: particulate matter

HVAC: visible heating, ventilation, and air conditioning components

CARBON MONOXIDE

CO is produced from the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing fuels, including gasoline, heating oil, and natural gas. CO encountered in a classroom or office environment would likely be the result of proximity to motor vehicles or a malfunctioning heating system exhaust. While ASHRAE recommends that CO levels indoors should not exceed 9 parts per million (ppm), any sustained measurable amount of CO should be investigated.

CARBON DIOXIDE

CO₂ is a normal constituent of exhaled breath and indoor concentrations depend on the number of occupants, duration of occupancy, and air exchanges in a given space. ASHRAE recommends maintaining indoor CO₂ concentrations at less than approximately 1,200 ppm. Given that the building had only limited occupancy during the testing, the reported concentrations are not reflective of conditions during full occupancy.

TEMPERATURE

ASHRAE recommends maintaining indoor temperatures between 68 and 76°F.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

ASHRAE recommends maintaining relative humidity indoors below 60%. Relative humidity indoors is difficult to regulate and is largely reflective of outdoor conditions.

AIRBORNE PARTICULATE

PM2.5

Airborne particulate matter was measured to assess the effectiveness of the buildings ventilation filtration system. ASHRAE recommends that ambient airborne particulate matter concentrations, measured as PM2.5, should meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which for PM2.5 is 0.035 milligrams per cubic meter of air (mg/m³), as measured and averaged over a period of 24 hours.

PM10

Airborne particulate matter was measured to assess the effectiveness of the buildings ventilation filtration system. ASHRAE recommends that airborne particulate matter concentrations, measured as PM10, should meet NAAQS, which for PM10 is 0.150 mg/m³, as measured and averaged over a period of 24 hours.

HVAC

Classrooms are served by unit ventilators. The auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria all have separate fan units.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PBS did not observe any rooms that had neither operable windows nor an obvious mechanical or gravity ventilation system. PBS has no recommendations concerning ambient air quality at this time.

LIMITATIONS OF SCOPE

This study was limited to the tests and locations as indicated above. The site as a whole may have other environmental concerns that will not be characterized by this study. The findings and conclusions of this work are not scientific certainties but probabilities based on professional judgment concerning the significance of the data gathered during the course of this investigation. PBS is not able to represent conditions on the site or adjoining sites beyond those detected or observed by PBS.

PBS respectfully submits these results of our indoor air quality investigation. Please feel free to contact me at 503.417.7724 or marli.heininger@pbsusa.com with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

 Marli Heininger
2021.04.13
17:47:00 -07'00'

Marli Heininger
Industrial Hygienist

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