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Indoor Air Quality
Catastrophe Services
Microbiology
Asbestos Surveys
Air Monitoring
Industrial Hygiene
Epidemiology
Radon Testing
Water Testing
Lead Testing

February 15, 2024

Catherine Odindo
Westfield Washington Schools

**RE: Microbiological Air Sampling Report
Westfield Middle School
345 West Hoover Street – Westfield, Indiana
Micro Air, Inc. Project #50-19648-H**

Dear Ms. Odindo,

Micro Air, Inc. conducted microbiological air sampling within Westfield Middle School located at the above-referenced address in Westfield, Indiana. Request for services was in response to expressed concerns regarding possible mold growth inside the school building.

Sampling to measure airborne mold spore levels was conducted within the areas selected for testing by school administrators. April Nelson, Industrial Hygienist, performed the testing on February 8, 2024. The microbiological laboratory report is attached to the end of this document.

METHODOLOGY

Microbiology: Microbiological sampling to measure total (viable and non-viable) airborne mold spore levels was conducted inside the building. The following microbiological study was conducted:

Total (Viable and Non-Viable) Airborne Mold Spore Levels

Sampling to measure total airborne mold spore levels was conducted using Air-O-Cell Cassettes in conjunction with a calibrated high-volume air-sampling pump. Samples were collected over a 5-minute time period at an airflow rate of 15 liters per minute. Results of the total mold spore analysis are reported in Spores per Cubic Meter of air (Spores/M³).

All samples were analyzed via direct microscopic evaluation by Micro Air, Inc., a laboratory that is accredited through the Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation Program (EMLAP) administered by the American Industrial Hygiene Association Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC (AIHA LAP, LLC).

STUDY RESULTS

Microbiology: Existing standards regarding indoor air quality do not address microbiological contaminants, yet these contaminants can pose significant indoor air quality problems. Consensus for health-related airborne mold spore levels has not been agreed upon by standard setting agencies. Indoor airborne mold spore levels and types of isolates are compared to the outdoor level as an indication of potential indoor amplification sites.

Total (Viable and Non-Viable) Airborne Mold Spore Levels:

Two air samples were collected inside the school building during the site visit. In addition, one sample was collected outdoors for comparison purposes. Results are summarized in the table below:

Sample ID	Sample Location	Level Measured (Spores/ M ³)	Predominant Mold Spore Type Identified
A-01	Classroom W406	106	NA
A-02	Classroom W106	106	NA
A-03	Outdoors	3,094	Basidiospores

Spores/M³ = Mold Spores per Cubic Meter of Air.

NA = **Not applicable**; a clearly predominant mold spore type was not identified in the sample due to the extremely low level measured.

Individual sampling sites and corresponding results have been detailed in the ***Total Airborne Mold Spore Sample Results*** laboratory report provided at the end of this document.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

Micro Air, Inc. conducted microbiological air sampling within Westfield Middle School located at 345 West Hoover Street in Westfield, Indiana. Request for services was in response to expressed concerns regarding possible mold growth inside the school building.

A brief visual inspection of the classrooms selected for testing revealed evidence of water damage in the form of water stains on suspended ceiling tiles and on ceiling-level light fixture lens covers within both tested classrooms. Some of the water-stained portions of the ceilings were near or adjacent to the floor-to-ceiling cabinets located along the common wall, preventing detailed inspection of the potentially impacted underlying wall surfaces. An inspection of the plenum space above the suspended ceiling revealed staining on the underside of roof decking material, likely from a roof leak issue. No mold growth was observed within either classroom during the inspection. In addition, no unusual or mold-like odors were detected in the classrooms tested on the day of the evaluation.

Microbiological air sampling revealed extremely low levels of airborne mold spores that were also significantly below the outdoor level measured, which are the desired outcomes of the testing. In addition, both of the indoor mold spore types were also identified outdoors in greater concentrations, suggesting that the outside air was the primary influence on the indoor airborne mold spore population present at the time of sampling. The results from both classrooms were well within the acceptable range for a normal or non-impacted indoor environment on the date sampling was conducted. These results indicate that the observed water damage was not having a negative impact on the air quality within the classrooms at the time of the evaluation.

Although the air sampling revealed acceptable levels in both classrooms, Micro Air, Inc. recommends that all water-impacted ceiling tiles be discarded and replaced with new tiles, and that the stained light fixture lens covers be cleaned or replaced. In addition, consideration should be given to removing the cabinets along the common wall in both rooms to allow for inspection of underlying wall surfaces and backsides of cabinets for evidence of mold growth. Any mold-impacted cabinets should be discarded, and any mold-impacted wall board should be removed, extending 2' above and beyond the visible extent of growth. If growth is present in a quantity greater than 10 square feet, the removal should be conducted by a qualified professional mold remediation contractor utilizing appropriate engineering controls and PPE. Micro Air, Inc. also recommends that the stained portions of roof decking located above the suspended ceiling in both classrooms be cleaned with a sanitizing agent. If staining remains on the decking after the completion of cleaning activities, the stained portions of decking should be allowed to fully dry, then be treated with two applications of an antimicrobial paint such as Foster 40-20 (or suitable equivalent).

Thank you for allowing Micro Air, Inc. the opportunity to provide our services. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "April Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "April" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nelson".

April Nelson, OHST
Sr. Industrial Hygienist
Micro Air, Inc.



micro air inc.

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February 13, 2024

Westfield Washington Schools
Catherine Odindo
18420 North Union Street
Westfield, IN 46074

Total Airborne Mold Spore Sample Results

Project Name: Westfield Middle School
Project Number: 50-19648-H

Location: 345 W. Hoover St. - Westfield, IN
Date Received: February 8, 2024

Enclosed please find the results of samples analyzed by the Micro Air, Inc. laboratory.

Samples were analyzed according to Micro Air, Inc. Method M01, Revision 7 to identify total airborne mold in the samples and quantify the results. Total concentrations are reported as calculated, but only the first 2 figures should be considered significant. Data is corrected for blank samples only if blank samples are submitted. The expanded measurement of uncertainty for all direct spore trap results is 0.21 at a 95% confidence level ($k=2$). Our laboratory is fully accredited for spore trap analysis by the AIHA LAP, Laboratory ID: LAP-100951.

Disclaimer: It is not the intent of this report to make any associations regarding potential health effects to building occupants. There are no governmental regulations concerning permissible numbers of mold in environmental samples. Interpretation of the results is the responsibility of the company or individual who conducted the investigation.

This report may not be reproduced, except in full, without written approval from Micro Air, Inc. These results only relate to the items tested and are only as accurate as the sampling information submitted by the customer (e.g. air volumes). Samples are received in good condition unless otherwise noted.

Analyzed By:

Rachel Harris-Waywood

Authorized By:

Betsie L. McAfee
Technical Manager

Client: Westfield Washington Schools
Report Date: 2/13/2024
Lab Number: 178960

Project Number: 50-19648-H
Project Name: Westfield Middle School

Total Airborne Mold Spore Sample Results

Location: 345 W. Hoover St. - Westfield, IN

Sample ID	Client Sample ID	Date Collected	Date Analyzed	Volume/M³	Detection Limit (Count/M³)	Debris Rating	Sample Location	Alternaria	Ascospores/ Leptosphaeria	Aspergillus / Penicillium Like	Basidiospores	Bipolaris / Drechlera	Chaetomium	Cladosporium	Curvularia	Epicoccum	Fusarium	Pithomyces / Ulocladium	Stachybotrys	Other	TOTAL CONCENTRATION (Count/M³)
001	A-01	02/08/24	02/13/24	0.075	53	3	Classroom W406				53			53							106
Raw Count:										1				1							2
002	A-02	02/08/24	02/13/24	0.075	53	3	Classroom W106				53			53							106
Raw Count:										1				1							2
003	A-03	02/08/24	02/13/24	0.075	53	3	Outdoors		107	2827				160							3094
Raw Count:									2	53				3							58

Betsie L. McAfee has reviewed this final report and has taken overall technical responsibility for the data.

Count/M³=Spore Count per Cubic Meter

Total concentrations are reported as calculated, but only the first 2 figures should be considered significant.

Debris Rated on a Scale of 1-5

- 1 - Less than 10% of the slide occluded with non-microbial debris
- 2 - 11 to 25% of the slide occluded with non-microbial debris
- 3 - 25 to 75% of the slide occluded with non-microbial debris
- 4 - 76 to 90% of the slide occluded with non-microbial debris
- 5 - Greater than 90% of the slide occluded with non-microbial debris. This debris rating is not analyzed.