



Mike Braun
Governor

Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP
State Health Commissioner

February 12, 2026

RLP #644

Dr. Mark Hall, Superintendent
South Madison Community School Corporation
203 South Heritage Way
Pendleton, IN 46064

Dear Superintendent Hall:

The purpose of this letter is to report on the result of our indoor air quality evaluation at Pendleton Heights Middle School on February 3rd. This evaluation was conducted at the request of a concerned citizen to address their concerns that there is mold growing in the school.

The Indiana State Department of Health's Microbiological Laboratory incubated and counted the fungal and bacterial units. The total colony forming units per cubic meter of air (CFU/M³) were computed by adding the fungal and bacterial counts and dividing the sum by the total volume of the sampled air. Please refer to Table 1 for further details. Fungal (mold) concentrations inside the Gymnasium Mechanical Room, 8th Grade Boy's Locker Room, and Classroom 713 were slightly higher than the outdoor fungal concentration. It is not uncommon to see slightly higher fungal (mold) concentration indoors when the outdoor temperature is near freezing with snow cover on the ground as it was during our sampling. There are no limits established as an acceptable concentration of fungal counts indoors. There are guidelines that recommend having lower concentrations indoors compared to outdoors.

The Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels inside were measured with the highest reading at 1578 CO₂ per million parts of air (ppm). The School Indoor Air Quality rule, 410 IAC 33-4-2 states "(a) Outdoor Air shall be supplied to classrooms when occupied. (b) Carbon dioxide concentrations in the breathing zone shall never exceed 700 ppm over the

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

2 North Meridian Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • 317-233-1325 • health.in.gov

An equal opportunity employer.

The Indiana Department of Health is accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board.



outdoor concentration, in this case giving a limit of 1153 ppm. ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers) recommends 15 cfm (cubic feet per minute) of outdoor air per person for classrooms.

The outdoor relative humidity was determined at 41 percent (%), and the indoor relative humidity had a range of 19% to 24%. The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommend the relative humidity in habitable spaces preferably should be maintained between 30% and 60% to minimize growth of allergenic and pathogenic organisms. Humidity levels above 50% have been found to increase the population size of molds, fungi and mites that may cause allergies. The evidence suggests that humidity levels should be maintained between 40% and 50% to reduce the incidence of upper respiratory infections and to minimize the adverse effect on people suffering from asthma or allergies. Such a range would be hard to maintain, however, exposure to higher or lower levels are unlikely to affect the health of most people.

Based on our measurements and our visual inspection we note the following:

- 1) **410 IAC 33-4-6 (d): states "when mold or mold-contaminated material is discovered, corrective action shall be taken within forty-eight (48) hours. Mold is not to be growing in the school."** Visible mold was observed on the HVAC air ducts and equipment inside the Gymnasium Mechanical Room.
- 2) **410 IAC 33-4-2 (b): states "carbon dioxide concentrations in the breathing zone shall never exceed 700 ppm over the outdoor concentration".** The carbon dioxide concentration level in classrooms 816 and 821 exceeds the recommended limit of 1153 ppm. Please ensure there is sufficient outside air being supplied into the classrooms during occupancy. Adjusting dampers on the HVAC units may correct the problem.

The School Indoor Air Quality rule 410 IAC 33-6-2 requires this report and any response to this report be posted within (5) days of receipt. The report(s) shall remain posted for (14) consecutive days both at the school building stated in the report, and on the school's website, where it is accessible to students, parents, and employees. 410 IAC 33 requires you to respond within 60 days of any actions you take based upon this report.



The School Indoor Air Quality rule 410 IAC 33 is available at
<https://www.in.gov/health/eph/files/A00330.pdf>.

Individuals experiencing health problems should seek medical advice from a physician.

If you have questions, I can be reached at 317.682.9030.

Sincerely,

RICK PLEW, INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST,
INDOOR AIR SECTION, ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
Enclosure



TABLE 1

Pendleton Heights Middle School
7450 S. 300 West
Pendleton, IN 46064

Computed Microbiological Air Sample Results
Taken February 3, 2026

Sample	Location	Persons	Temp °F	RH %	CO2 ppm	Fungal CFU/M ³	Bacterial CFU/M ³
5	Gymnasium Mechanical Room	3	65	22	703	10	0
6	Gymnasium	30	70	20	851	0	0
7	8th Grade Boy's Locker Room	3	67	20	700	20	5
8	Classroom 713	28	70	21	1135	15	5
9	Classroom 721	3	69	19	1040	0	0
10	Classroom 821	28	71	24	1578	0	5
11	Classroom 816	3	69	21	1277	0	0
12	Outdoor	0	35	41	453	0	0

Notes:

% -----percent

ppm-----parts per million

CFU/M³—colony forming units per cubic meter of air

SOUTH MADISON

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

203 SOUTH HERITAGE WAY ♦ PENDLETON IN 46064 ♦ (765) 778-2152 ♦ (317) 485-4478 ♦ (765) 642-5661 ♦ (765) 778-8207-FAX

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Ana Blake
Richard C. Evans
Kevin Ginder
Mike H. Hanna
Bill Hutton
John N. Lord
Mark Thompson

February 16, 2026

Indiana Department of Health

Indoor Air Section, Environmental Public Health

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Mark J. Hall
Superintendent

Andrew L. Kruer
*Assistant Superintendent
for Secondary Curriculum,
Instruction and College &
Career Readiness*

Dr. Laura M. Miller
*Assistant Superintendent
for Elementary Curriculum
and Instruction*

Kenneth S. McCarty
*Business & Operations
Manager*

Rachel Ross-Kroemer
*Director of Special
Education*

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 12, 2026 that was in regards to indoor air quality evaluations at Pendleton Heights Middle School conducted on February 3, 2026.

South Madison School Corporation has contracted with Advanced Duct Cleaning to remediate the mold found on the duct work in the Gymnasium Mechanical Room. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the end of February 2026.

North Mechanical Contracting and Service has been contracted to evaluate and modify our make up air units that bring outside air into the building. These evaluations and modifications will start by the end of February. Completion will be done as soon as possible. The timeline will be determined by the availability of parts and scope of work.

Respectfully,



Kenneth McCarty

Business Manager