Saltsburg Elementary Post Cleaning Indoor Air Quality Clearance Report

Before and after comparison of professional carpet cleaning verification

Property	Saltsburg Elementary School, 199 Trojan Lane, Saltsburg, PA 15681
District	River Valley School District
Initial laboratory report	EMSL Order 182604735, analyzed September 10, 2026
Post-cleaning report	EMSL Order 182604831, received and analyzed September 14, 2026; report dated September 15, 2026
Prepared by	Ed Lampl, Professional Environmental & Home Inspections

Occupancy Conclusion

Congratulations. All targeted post-cleaning retest locations passed verification. The laboratory evidence supports safe normal occupancy in the tested areas, including the STEAM and Pre-K A125 LGI Room. The prior isolated Stachybotrys/Memnoniella finding was not detected after cleaning, and no additional mold mitigation is required in the rooms covered by this clearance assessment.

What the Testing Proved

The initial assessment included 87 air samples: one outdoor baseline and 86 indoor samples. It did not identify a widespread mold condition. Professional carpet cleaning was performed as an additional precaution because the school receives substantial daily foot traffic and carpet can retain outdoor dust and spores.

The post-cleaning testing scientifically confirmed that the targeted corrective cleaning was effective. Stachybotrys/Memnoniella was not detected in the A125 LGI Room, the trace Curvularia previously identified in the targeted F129 rear-right location was not reproduced, and several prior Aspergillus/Penicillium findings were either eliminated or substantially reduced.

Outside and Inside Comparison

Outdoor fungal levels naturally change with rainfall, humidity, wind, temperature, vegetation, and seasonal activity. The exterior level was higher during the post-cleaning sampling, yet all indoor retest results remained far below that exterior comparison point.

Comparison point	Initial testing	Post-cleaning	Meaning
Outdoor total fungi	34,414 spores/m³	60,610 spores/m³	Outdoor seasonal load increased
Indoor targeted retests	Selected prior findings	ND to 3,270 spores/m³	All remained far below the outdoor baseline
Targeted retest outcome	Follow-up recommended	100% passed	No further mold mitigation required

Before and After Results

The table below compares the specific findings that prompted precautionary cleaning with the post-cleaning verification results. “ND” means not detected in the laboratory sample.

Location	Before cleaning	After cleaning	Clearance reading
A125 LGI Room	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella 10; total fungi 440	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella ND; A/P 90; total fungi 260	Prior isolated concern corrected
E117 Megan Pattyn	A/P 1,100; total fungi 1,190	A/P 300; total fungi 2,600; no water-damage indicator fungi	A/P substantially reduced; outdoor-type profile
F129 Darrin Baker rear right	Curvularia 40; A/P 200; total fungi 520	No trace detected	Trace Curvularia and A/P finding cleared
F129 Darrin Baker center	A/P 870; total fungi 1,180	None detected	Cleared
A133 Farm center	A/P 890; total fungi 1,930	None detected	Cleared
B117 extra classroom	Trace Curvularia 40; outdoor-type spores; total fungi 340	A/P ND; outdoor-type spores; total fungi 3,270	Far below outdoor baseline; no amplification
A128 verification area	A/P 200	No water-damage indicator fungi; total fungi 2,500	Healthy outdoor-type indoor profile

A125 LGI Room Verification

The A125 LGI Room was the most important verification location. The initial sample contained an isolated Stachybotrys/Memnoniella result of 10 spores/m³, sometimes informally described as “black mold.” After the precautionary carpet cleaning, Stachybotrys/Memnoniella was not detected. The room’s post-cleaning total was 260 spores/m³ compared with the outdoor baseline of 60,610 spores/m³. This before-and-after evidence confirms that the prior isolated condition was corrected and that the room passed clearance for normal occupancy.

Curvularia Verification

The initial assessment identified trace Curvularia at only 10 to 40 spores/m³ in isolated areas. These concentrations were extremely low and were consistent with tracked-in outdoor material rather than active indoor growth. The targeted post-cleaning sample at F129 rear right produced no trace detection, demonstrating that the precautionary cleaning removed the previously detected Curvularia from that tested location. The cleaning was an added protective measure, not evidence that the school had a widespread mold condition.

Why Some Total Counts Can Rise

A higher total count does not automatically mean that an indoor mold problem developed. Total fungi combine many spore types, including common outdoor-origin spores. For example, the post-cleaning totals in E117, B117, and A128 reflected outdoor-type spores while the fungi that prompted follow-up were reduced, absent, or accompanied by no water-damage indicators. Interpretation must consider the spore types, the outdoor baseline, the room pattern, and the visual and moisture assessment together.

Laboratory Charts

For a simple visual comparison, review the EMSL Background Comparison Charts on pages 21 through 28 of the September 15, 2026 laboratory report. These charts place each indoor retest beside the outdoor baseline. Individual analytical results appear on pages 5 through 12, and total-count charts appear on pages 13 through 20.

Carpet Cleaning and Continuing Maintenance

The before-and-after results confirm that professional carpet cleaning was effective. Regular professional cleaning should continue in all carpeted areas because students, employees, contractors, and visitors continually carry outdoor dust, soil, pollen, and fungal spores into the building. This is normal preventive facility maintenance and does not indicate that an active mold problem remains.

Final Professional Opinion

Clearance determination. Based on the areas sampled, the conditions observed, the before-and-after comparison, and the relationship of the indoor results to the outdoor baseline, 100% of the targeted retest locations at Saltsburg Elementary School passed post-cleaning verification. The prior airborne fungal concerns were corrected. The tested areas, including the STEAM and Pre-K A125 LGI Room, support safe normal occupancy, and no further mold mitigation is recommended for those tested rooms.

Air sampling represents conditions at the specific locations and times tested. Continued moisture management and routine building maintenance remain appropriate for every occupied school facility. This report is an environmental assessment and is not medical advice.

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Respectfully submitted,

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