

September 28, 2026

Dr. Sylvia Zircher,
Superintendent,
South River Schools
15 Montgomery Street
South River, NJ 08882

Dear Dr. Zircher,

This report summarizes findings from September 23-24, 2026, site inspections, air monitoring, air and surface sampling conducted withing approximately 35 classrooms and other student/staff occupied spaces throughout the South River Elementary and Middle Schools. This assessment was conducted to determine if there was abnormal fungal contamination on surfaces or within air throughout the school due to recent teacher reported concerns over possible elevated airborne mold in a science prep room and a recent discovery of HVAC malfunctions in a few areas associated with a recent power surge and power outage that impacted the neighborhood and school. As a precaution, the district closed the school on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, through Sunday, September 27, 2026, to facilitate detailed inspection and cleaning.

Inspection Findings

Inspection findings of 35 representative classrooms revealed that classroom airborne temperature averaged 71°F@ 54% relative humidity; considered to be normal and not conducive to supporting abnormal mold growth. There were no widespread signs of unusual mold growth or mold contamination throughout the school. Limited mold-like discoloration was observed undersides or inaccessible surfaces of on some desks, file cabinets, or bookshelves in areas where HVAC malfunctions were reported. Signs of water or stained dropped ceiling tiles were observed in several areas.

Laboratory Results

Air sampling revealed **that airborne mold levels in all 35 Elementary and Middle School classrooms, offices or common spaces areas where air samples were collected were substantially lower than outdoor levels (approximately 1/15th of outdoor levels)**; all comprised of subset of outdoor mold types and considered normal. **Historic surface dust on common touch surfaces** throughout the Elementary and Middle School classrooms (e.g. underside of tables and chairs) **did not contain abnormal mold growth**. Limited surface mold growth was identified in a few isolated classroom areas where the HVAC malfunction resulted in overcooling and condensation of airborne moisture on surfaces (e.g. room 301, room 225 and the media center) as well as the gym where wall pads were recently removed as part of a renovation.

Based upon these findings, recommendations for precautionary professional cleaning of Elementary and Middle School classrooms were provided. This work initiated on Thursday September 24 and continued through Sunday September 27. Cleaning of Elementary School classrooms was completed on Sunday, September 27, 2026. Cleaning of the Middle School areas is continuing. Detailed cleaning of the gym and media center will be conducted at a later date.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you with this assessment. Please contact me with any questions

Sincerely,

Richard M. Lynch

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