



Ancaster High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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December 11, 2019

Dear Families,

This is a letter to inform you that Ancaster High experienced a possible asbestos exposure involving the staff and students in a classroom used for three classes on Monday, Dec. 9, math homework help at lunch on Monday, and two classes the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Asbestos was disturbed during a window replacement by a Board contractor in room 2013. The work completed by contractors was done in a controlled environment. The room was turned over to the school Monday before plaster patching and cleaning had occurred.

As soon as staff noticed the disturbed area, students and staff were immediately removed from the room. This occurred just after 11 a.m. Tuesday.

HWDSB engaged Pinchin Environmental, the consultant on the project, to conduct air and wall material testing. This testing concluded that the air quality is acceptable. The wall material testing did, however, confirm that asbestos was found in the plaster on the wall.

The room will remain closed to staff and students until all repairs are complete and cleaning is verified. The work is being done following Ministry of Labour guidelines.

We are taking precautions to prevent future occurrences: in any work involving asbestos, Pinchin Environmental will verify on a room-by-room basis that work areas are appropriately cleaned before being reopened to students and staff.

The human health effects from long-term unsafe asbestos exposure are well documented. The possible exposure at Ancaster High was limited in scope and duration.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety notes that people are more likely to experience asbestos-related disorders if they:

- are exposed to high concentrations of asbestos,
- are exposed for longer periods of time, and/or
- are exposed to asbestos more frequently.

If you have any health concerns, please contact your family doctor. If you wish to discuss this matter, please reach out to me through our school office. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Randy Gallant
Principal