

Thursday May 9, 2019

Dear Meadowbrook Families,

Meadowbrook was thoroughly tested today by National Grid, the EG fire department, as well as Ocean State Analytics (our contracted independent indoor air quality provider).

All occupiable spaces in the building were tested multiple times with redundant instruments and all results were negative for CO. During this testing the building was kept closed and all systems were run through their daily duty cycles. This included the boiler, water heater and kitchen equipment, all potential sources of CO.

Our classrooms have independent air exchange systems consisting of a unit ventilator which exchanges a percentage of outside air hourly and an exhaust fan, which contributes to the same process. These systems have no air to air contact with the boiler or other CO generating equipment. These systems were also engaged per their normal automated cycles today.

Going forward we will continue to assess the building and monitor CO levels in all spaces. CO detectors will be maintained in various locations around the building. A highly sensitive CO meter was overnighted to Meadowbrook and is also on site. While this does not and will not take the place of ongoing professional monitoring, it will allow us to spot check various locations at will. I intend to carry it on my daily classroom walkthroughs.

Your patience and cooperation this morning was sincerely appreciated. School was cancelled out of an abundance of caution and I still feel it was the appropriate call. Undoubtedly, the short notice left some of you scrambling to find child care and to otherwise rearrange your busy days. Thank you.

We will continue to follow up on any potential school based sources of CO and will continue to support our families impacted by CO. This includes taking a closer look at our school buses. As we are aware of some discussions taking place in the community and have been in receipt of questions regarding bus emissions and potential exposure to carbon monoxide in these settings, please be further advised that we have reached out to Ocean State Transit to explore what, if any risks of exposure, there are. Ocean State has confirmed for us that all buses in our fleet are propane. Propane combustion emits far lower levels of emissions than diesel. In addition to this, all buses are tested twice a year for emissions and all buses used in the fleet to provide service are in compliance.

If you suspect your child may be suffering from the effects of carbon monoxide you should immediately seek medical attention. Remember CO poisoning is typically indicated by flu like symptoms. At this time the school department does not have any recommendations from medical professionals which suggest testing all students or testing any asymptomatic students. My advice is to trust your judgment and if you are concerned to contact your child's pediatrician.

The EG fire department is available to test your home should you feel there is reason to suspect your child or family has come in contact with unsafe levels of CO. If you have National Grid gas service in your home, National grid can also conduct a CO assessment.

I would like to again thank all families for their support and understanding during these unusual circumstances. If you have any follow up questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

School will be open without restriction tomorrow, Friday 5/10/19. I look forward to greeting our students in the morning.

Neil Marcaccio
Principal
Meadowbrook Farms Elementary School