

# Memo

To: Steve Wilder, Assistant Principal  
University High School

From: Dave Martin, CSP  
Industrial Hygienist  
438-8326

CC: JC Crabill, J. Hill, R. Dean

Date: March 19, 2007

Re: University High School Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Summary

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At the request of the University High School Assistant Principal, Steve Wilder, a limited Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) survey was conducted in University High School on February 12, 2007, by members of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). The intent of the survey was to identify potential indoor environmental conditions that may be contributing to allergies one the U High students is experiencing while in the building.

Sampling locations were selected after an interview with Assistant Principal and after consulting the students class schedule. Measurements included: temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide, and mold/particulate sampling. It was limited to Stroud Auditorium, Music Room 103, Classrooms 211, 310, the north first floor entry lounge and two outdoor locations. Mold/particulate samples were collected at the North and South entries for comparison to indoor levels of the areas noted above. We found the parameters of the general indoor quality to be primarily satisfactory. The exceptions are noted in this summary.

It is important to understand that indoor air quality standards were developed with the intent to provide an acceptable indoor air environment for the majority of building occupants. Individuals with specific hypersensitivities may be affected by environments that fall within the standards without noticeable effect to the majority building occupants.

In the areas measured the relative humidity was slightly low. According to IDPH and/or ASHRAE standards the ideal relative humidity for a classroom is between 30 - 60%. We measured between 18 – 27%. Although there are no regulations that dictate relative humidity levels, levels below 20% may contribute to dry mucus membranes and hacking coughs etc.

We did not observe any visible mold growth in any of the areas inspected. Furthermore, the conditions measured on February 12, 2007, are not conducive to mold growth. Mold needs a humidity condition of 60% or greater to thrive and as stated earlier, humidity conditions in the areas were between 18 - 27%.

Our mold spore/particulate monitoring did detect several non-viable mold species which are quite common in the environment. However, level of detection does not warrant an in depth or prolonged investigation. Depending on an individual's level of susceptibility certain species may trigger the types of reactions being experienced by your student. However, it is not clear from the information shared with Environmental Health and Safety concerning the student symptoms, whether any of the species measured are that trigger mechanism.