



Town of Lexington
Office of Community Development
Health Division
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420
(781)-862-0500 x 200
Fax (781)-861-2780

Gerard F. Cody, R.E.H.S./R.S.
Health Director

David Neylon, B.S.N., R.N.
Public Health Nurse

Kathy P. Fox, R.S., C.H.O., C.F.S.P.
Environmental Health Agent

Board of Health

Wendy Heiger-Bernays, PhD, Chair
Sharon MacKenzie, R.N., CCM
Burt M. Perlmutter, M.D.
David S. Geller, M.D.

Notice of Work

August 23, 2010 – **Estabrook Elementary School will have construction-like activity to remove caulking on interior and exterior window frames starting on Tuesday August 24, 2010, finishing by mid-September. Detailed plans to protect the health and safety of employees, students and nearby residents are in place for the duration of the project.**

On Tuesday, August 24, 2010, caulking containing polychlorinated biphenyls, (PCBs) and asbestos will be removed from some windows at the Estabrook Elementary School. These regulated materials were detected earlier this month during the planning phase to remove and replace existing window caulking. The work will be conducted in accordance with a protocol detailed in the Contractor Work Plan approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Full containment procedures, in conformance with state regulations for removal of asbestos containing materials including barriers and negative pressurization, will be used to control potential release of construction materials and prevent exposure to occupants. The interior and exterior surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned following the construction activity to remove any residual material from the construction. All work containments will be thoroughly cleaned and their acceptance verified by standard testing procedures prior to their removal. The ground along the exterior perimeter of the building will be covered with polyethylene sheeting and mulch to prevent inadvertent contact with soil. Post-cleaning samples of air and surfaces will be obtained to ensure the efficacy of the removal and sealing procedures. The interior work is planned to be completed by Monday August 30th. The Town's consultant Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc. of Needham, MA will be on-site to oversee the construction and to ensure that all safety procedures are fully implemented and performed in compliance with the approved Contractor Work Plan.

Contractors must wear protective gloves, overalls, eye protection, safety shoes, hard hats and properly fitting breathing apparatus. **Estabrook faculty and staff are not allowed in the designated work areas or staging area until the indoor portion of the project has been completed.**

Material Safety Data Sheets for the new caulking are available for review and will be located at the Office of Community Development, Health Division, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue and the Estabrook Elementary School Office.

Common Questions and Answers

If PCBs are present in caulking material, does that mean exposures and health impacts are likely?

No. Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health, MDPH/BEH, has reviewed available data which suggests that if caulking is intact, no appreciable exposure to PCBs are likely and hence health effects would not be expected. Caulking does not generally contain high levels of PCB's. High levels of PCBs in the body can cause adverse effects on the immune, reproductive, nervous, and endocrine systems. PCB exposure could result in cancer.

Can PCBs be found in and around my school?

PCBs are harmful chemicals sometimes found in schools and other buildings built or remodeled before 1978, and are found in and around building joints and other places, including:

- Cracking and flaking caulk
- Contaminated soil
- Masonry adjacent to windows
- Indoor air that has been exposed to PCBs
- Paint, electrical transformers, and light ballasts.
- PCBs were not added to caulk after 1978, therefore, schools built after 1978 do not contain PCBs in caulk.

Are my children at risk for PCB exposure?

PCBs accumulate in the body in high levels only after prolonged exposure to the chemical. Follow the recommended procedures to reduce exposure. Restricting children from areas where PCB-containing caulk is located, promoting safe work practices during renovation activities in schools, and removing caulk safely as part of a PCB removal or renovation project reduces the potential for exposure.

How can you prevent PCB accumulation in the body?

Keep children from touching caulk or surfaces near caulk.

Keep children away from soil that may contain PCBs.

Clean the floor, walls, and window sills regularly with wet cloths.

Wash children's hands and toys often.

Improve ventilation by opening windows or adding exhaust fans.

For further information, you may contact the Health Division at 781-862-0500 x237 or email at gcodey@lexingtonma.gov. You may also visit www.epa.gov/PCBsincaulk or call EPA's PCBs in Caulk Hotline: 888-835-5372 to learn more about PCBs in caulk.

Gerard F. Cody, REHS/RS
Health Director

Sandra A. Trach
Estabrook School Principal