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Date: August 24, 2010

To: Dr. Paul Ash
Superintendent of Schools

From: Gerard Cody
Health Director

Status of School Buildings regarding PCB's in Caulk

I am writing to provide you with an update on the presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls, (PCB's) in caulk building material in Lexington Public Schools. Last spring, Public Facilities hired *Universal Environmental Consultants* (UEC) to perform a comprehensive screening to detect the presence of PCB's in caulking and in the soil at the following Public Schools; Estabrook, Clarke, Lexington High, Hastings, Diamond, Central Administration, Bridge, Bowman, Harrington and Fiske. In addition, twelve (12) other Public Buildings in Lexington were also included in the PCB screening process. Only three buildings did not pass the screening process established by UEC and required further examination by a more comprehensive testing method established by the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA). Results from the screening process indicate the PCB's were not detected in the caulk or soil at Lexington High School, Hastings, Diamond, Central Administration, Bridge, Bowman, Harrington and Fiske. Buildings constructed after 1978 generally do not contain PCB's since the substance was banded from use that year.

At the request of the Lexington Board of Health, *Environmental Health & Engineering* (EHE) was hired to conduct further testing at the three buildings (Town Administration Building, Clarke Middle School and Estabrook Elementary School) which did not pass the screening process. Further testing by EH&E determined that Town Administration Building and the Clarke Middle school had levels of PCB's that were acceptable and below actionable levels. However, Estabrook Elementary School had levels of PCB's in the caulk and in the soil that required a plan of action to be approved by the EPA Region 1 Office. On August 17th, EPA Region 1 approved the caulk removal plan. Licensed contractors began removing the material today and are expected to finish a majority of work by Monday August 30, 2010. For further information about the work at Estabrook School, see the attached Notice of Work dated August 23, 2010.