

PREVENTION PROTOCOL

Asbestos Management¹

Depending on Assistance Needed, Call:	
DGS – Environmental Health and Safety	202–576–8962
IAQ Contact	
IAQ Coordinator	

Situation Description

In order to protect children from hazards associated with asbestos-containing building materials, the United States Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Under this law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address asbestos hazards in elementary and secondary schools. These regulations require schools to conduct inspections for asbestos, develop written plans for addressing any potential asbestos hazards discovered, and implement any needed remedial response actions in a timely manner. Our program for fulfilling these responsibilities is outlined in your building's Asbestos Management Plan (AMP). AMP contains information on inspections, re-inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities that are planned or are in progress.

- Consult the AMP before all maintenance and/or construction activities.
- Outside contractors, as well as school personnel, must review the AMP before conducting any activity that may disturb an asbestos-containing building material.
- Never assume; check the AMP.
- If asbestos-containing materials are involved, or if you are unable to determine from the plan whether or not a building material contains asbestos, contact the DGS – Environmental Health and Safety at 202–576–8962 for assistance.

Each school must maintain a copy of the AMP in the main office of each building, and an identical AMP must be maintained at the DGS – Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). The AMP will be consistently updated as new information and records become available. The AMP must be available for inspection by parents, employees, outside vendors, and other interested parties upon request.

Procedures

¹ This Protocol contains information developed and implemented by DGS – Office of Safety and Health and can be used as a guideline for other District LEAs. Each LEA should review and edit the contents to conform to their procedures and contacts.

Each facility must annually notify parents, legal guardians, and employees of the availability of their building's AMP.

- DGS – Environmental Health and Safety sends Annual Notification Letters to each school annually and home to parents and guardians each school year.
- Post the notification letter at the location customarily used for posting of notices to employees. This letter must remain posted throughout the year.
- Maintain a copy of your Annual Notification Letter in your AMP.
- Six-Month Surveillance Reports
 - DGS– Environmental Health and Safety provides contractual support for DC Public School Locations to maintain compliance with AHERA.
- New Occupancies
 - Before students or employees can occupy any new building or portion of a building, it must be inspected for asbestos-containing materials. Contact DGS – Environmental Health and Safety so this inspection can be conducted prior to occupancy.

In conjunction with AHERA, DGS – EHS will also proceed with a multitude of IAQ policies backed by District of Columbia legislation; Healthy Schools Act of 2010.

All questions or concerns regarding asbestos should be directed to DGS – Environmental Health and Safety.