



## South Harrison Township Elementary School District

Dr. Scott J. Hogan  
Chief School Administrator

Mrs. Sarah Bell  
School Business Administrator

Mrs. Laura Flynn  
Supervisor of Special Services

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### **South Harrison Township Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room Floor Monitoring & Management Plan** Submitted for approval by the Board of Education October 18, 2021

Members of the South Harrison Township School Community:

Below is the monitoring & management plan for our district's Multi-Purpose Room Floor based on trace amounts of elemental mercury found in our multi-purpose room floor. In April 2019, South Harrison Township School District identified that the rubber-like floor in the multi-purpose room (MPR) used a similar product as described in most reports on the matter benign reported by Washington Township School District, and was installed during a time when PMA was used in to cure these floors. The following steps were taken:

- As a precaution, in April 2019, the district contracted Epic Environmental to take bulk samples to be analyzed. The results confirmed there was mercury in the floors. Epic was asked to return to take air samples in May of 2019.
- Samples were collected in May 2019 and compared to the NJ DoH action limit criteria and concluded that no sample exceeded this limit.
- Epic returned a third time in July 2019 and performed a stress test to measure a 'worst case scenario'. Ventilation was shut for a period of 8hrs and results concluded mercury vapor concentrations were above the limit.
- In August 2019 the Superintendent opted to close the MPR to students and staff while additional testing was completed.
- EPIC was asked to attend the September 2019 Board meeting and provide an overview of findings to the community and be available for Q&A.
- Epic returned in September and October of 2019 to determine:
  - (a) if the flooring would be classified as mercury containing hazardous waste if removed. Results concluded the concentration was above the threshold.
  - (b) to obtain core samples of the concrete sub-floor. 2 of the 3 samples were classified as hazardous

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- These findings helped paint a picture of associated costs (concrete sub-floor and handling the removal of the flooring itself); however, the actual costs couldn't be known until removal/excavation began.
- After a thorough review of the findings, consultation with the experts, and in conjunction with many conversations at the Board level, the Board recognized the only way to permanently eliminate the hazard would be through removal/replacement. Comparing similar situations from other Districts, the Board was aware that this would be a costly project and the only way to fund this project would be from a township bond approval.
- To ensure due diligence, the Board opted to have a second opinion first and hired ESM in December of 2019.
- ESM confirmed similar findings (with proper ventilation, air samples did not exceed recommended limits).
- ESM was asked to attend the January 2020 Board meeting and provide an overview of findings to the community and be available for Q&A
- Faced with a decision of 'remedy' or 'manage' the problem, the Board opted to attempt to remedy (through removal and replacement of the floor), the board authorized a special election for a bond approval up to a principal amount of \$1 million which was voted down.
- Between March -August, 20. The Board continued to have conversations and deliberations around the best way to handle the situation. In an effort to truly remedy the problem, it was clear the hazard would have to be eliminated, and again, the only way to eliminate the problem would be through removal. The board attempted to learn from the March defeat and provide more information & communication to the community at large, The board attempted another bond proposal at the November 2020 election which was defeated.
- Following the defeat, and reflecting on the space that was being 'unused', the board shifted conversations from "remediation" to "management" and created a task force consisting of members of the community, the school district, the board, and was chaired by community member, Mr. Robert Derham.
- The board worked closely with our transitioning administration in conjunction with the taskforce and contracted ESM to conduct 4 additional samples (February 21, May 21, July 21 and August 21). This was made at the request of the TF to provide a full and robust report with warm-weather samples) around air quality samples.
- Mr. Derham and the task force provided updates and presentations at the BOE meetings regularly since January '21 culminating at the August 2021 board meeting, during which ESM expert Dr. Lynch shared final results and recommendations to the board which laid the foundation for the development of this action plan.



This plan will be reviewed & approved by the South Harrison Board of Education prior to implementation. Each school year, the district is committed to revisiting this plan with a continued commitment to the long-term goal of replacement of the Mutli-Purpose Room floor to permanently remediate the need for further mitigation and management plans.

The district’s School Safety Team will also receive a copy of this plan, and will review annually at their first meeting of the year to discuss the need for any adjustments called for based on feedback from stakeholders responsible for plan implementation. The School Nurse & Maintenance Manager will also both receive copies of this plan & monthly monitoring reports to review as the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) liaisons for the district.

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<b>Management Priority</b>	<b>Staff Responsible</b>	<b>Time(s) of Day/Month</b>	<b>Verification/Procedures</b>
<p><b>Monitoring</b> for consistent, and acceptable levels of detectable elementary mercury in the multi-purpose room floor of the South Harrison Township Elementary School.</p>	<p>A contracted Environmental Consulting Firm (Contract to be board approved Oct. 2021)</p> <p>Each year, we will evaluate the rates of our current firm to determine best rates for services rendered before renewing &amp; establishing the parameters &amp; frequency for measurements each school year.</p>	<p>Monitoring will be conducted once per month starting in November 2021 and continuing throughout the 2021/2022 school year. The school district will re-evaluate the frequency of monitoring after collecting a full school year of baseline data to analyze trends.</p>	<p>The Chief School Administrator, School Business Administrator and Maintenance Manager will receive a monthly report from the Environmental Consulting firm for review and analysis.</p>
<p>One time <b>Professional cleaning</b> of the Multi-Purpose Room to remove all prior dust, debris, and restore a clean and sanitary environment prior to reopening.</p>	<p>The Multi-Purpose Room will be professionally cleaned by a HAZMAT certified cleaning company that will professionally clean the entire room. This is inclusive of all duct work, vents, attached equipment in the room.</p>	<p>This professional and HAZMAT certified deep cleaning will occur on October 21, 2021.</p>	<p>The Chief School Administrator, Business Administrator, and Maintenance Manager will be on site to ensure this project is completed fully and successfully.</p>



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<p><b>Ongoing routine daily cleaning</b> of the Multi-Purpose Room floor and dust-collecting surfaces.</p>	<p>Maintenance &amp; Contracted Custodial Staff</p>	<p>The Multi-Purpose Room Floor will be cleaned with a non-abrasive cleaner Monday-Friday in the morning prior to arrival (by 8:25am) and in the evening following dismissal each day (after 3:30pm).</p>	<p>A sign-off sheet will be maintained by a designated main office secretary that will be checked daily to ensure that the daily cleaning has occurred, and that the staff member responsible has initiated that the task is completed. Random weekly checks of the room will be conducted by members of maintenance and the administration to ensure regular compliance with cleaning procedures.</p>
<p><b>Requests for use of facilities</b> &amp; allowing access to the Multi-Purpose Room for 3rd party events.</p>	<p>Ms. Danielle Rice, Administrative Assistant to the CSA.</p>	<p>Ongoing basis as requests are received</p>	<p>We will not be granting access for third party use of the Multi-Purpose Room in 2021. As we enter 2022, we will continue to monitor cleaning procedures, monthly monitoring data, and evaluate progress over November and December of 2021 to determine when the Multi-Purpose Room can be reintroduced for public use.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring &amp; Maintenance of HVAC System</b> that services the Multi-Purpose Room</p>	<p>Facilities Manager, Custodial Staff, Administration, &amp; Third Party Contracted vendors</p>	<p>Monday-Friday from August 15- June 30th of each school year</p>	<p>District staff from the custodial &amp; maintenance department will check the HVAC system twice daily to ensure that the system is operating at optimal capacity using at least a 25%- 50% rate of outdoor air exchange while the room is in use.</p> <p>The verification process for the HVAC system will be integrated with the daily cleaning verification process, and will be verified by a designated staff member in the office.</p>



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