



Charleston Elementary School

West Charleston, VT 05872

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Chris Lawson, Principal

<https://ces.ncsuvt.org>

Charleston Elementary School PCB Test Results

10/9/2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and our Staff:

We are writing to provide you with an update on the recent testing for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in our school.

PCBs are a group of human-made chemicals commonly used in building materials and electrical equipment before 1980. PCBs can be released into indoor air from building materials that contain PCBs. PCBs can cause serious health problems. The potential for health effects from PCBs, as with other chemicals, depends on how much, how often, and how long someone is exposed to them.

Indoor air testing for PCBs took place at Charleston Elementary School during the week of August 21, 2023. An environmental consultant collected samples of indoor air that were processed by a laboratory, and then reviewed by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Vermont Department of Health.

What was found?

The PCB level in at least one tested ancillary room or space (such as bathrooms and hallways) is at or above the Vermont School Action Level for our school:

- 30 ng/m³ (nanograms per cubic meter) for pre-kindergarten
- 60 ng/m³ for kindergarten through 6th grade
- 100 ng/m³ for 7th grade through adult

Ancillary spaces are not occupied all day by staff or students and were sampled to help identify potential PCB sources. We will reduce the occupancy of these spaces as is practical.

No tested primary occupied room or space, such as classrooms or offices, had PCB levels at or above the Vermont School Action Level for our school.

Test results are listed in the table below.

Why are the levels different for each age group?

Food is the main non-school source of exposure to PCBs for most people. Younger children are exposed to more PCBs per their body weight from the food they eat. The school action levels take into account the total exposure to PCBs for students and staff from the food they eat. That

is why the school action level is lower for younger children and higher for older children and adults.

Test Results

Approximately one third of all rooms or spaces, including stairways and hallways, in the school were tested. Rooms and spaces not listed were not tested. “Not detected” means that the laboratory did not detect any PCBs.

Room or Space	Result (ng/m ³)
Boiler	67
Electrical Room	42
Gym	19
Gym Storage	10
Kitchen Bathroom	6
Rubbish	6
Storage Next to Staff Room	Not detected
Room 5	Not detected
Boy's Bathroom	Not detected
Girl's Bathroom	Not detected
Nurse/ Special Ed. WCs	Not detected
Library	Not detected
Room 7	Not detected
Room 8	Not detected
Room K	Not detected
Health/ Guidance	Not detected

What happens next?

Our goal and the goal of our state partners is to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Our consultants will work with DEC to identify and address the sources of PCBs. While our consultants work with DEC, the Health Department recommends that we lower the exposure of students and staff to PCBs by limiting the number of hours spent in the ancillary spaces above the school action level as is practical. **This decision is supported by the Health Department.**

Questions?

- Find **more information about PCBs**, including the complete test results, at dec.vermont.gov/pcb-schools.
- For **testing and test results questions**, email SOV.PCBsampling@vermont.gov.

- For **health-related questions**, call 1-800-439-8550.

Sincerely,

Chris Lawson, Principal