Asbestos Abatement Communication Summary

Q: What communication requirements are detailed in the Colorado Department of Public Health’s Asbestos Control Regulation #8 – Part B Asbestos?

A: Section IV.J.7.d. – “at least once each school year, the local education administration (LEA) shall notify in writing parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of management plans and shall include in the management plan a description of the steps taken to notify such organizations, and a dated copy of the notification…”

2008 bond renovation summaries of the scope of work are provided on the District’s web site (details abatement work in progress with scheduled completion dates) and this work was also reviewed during a publicly televised Board Meeting. A letter meeting the notification requirement was inserted into the AHERA Inspection Report & Management Plan Update & a legal ad is placed in local papers annually.

Construction meetings are ongoing and will be conducted with the Administrative Staff at each facility where asbestos abatement actions were scheduled to be performed.

Facilities are being isolated from general staff, students, and community access through the duration of the asbestos abatement activities until final air clearance sampling is performed to assure the air quality of the facility meets Federal (EPA) requirements.

Signs detailing the facility closure dates will be posted at main entries and provided names and contact numbers for any questions or concerns.

Principal’s at each facility will be asked to perform a phone-tree call and generate an email to notify all staff members of the facility closing due to abatement activities. It will also be recommended they delete card access to staff members to limit potential misunderstandings.

Q: Which facilities are scheduled for asbestos abatement activities to be performed in the summer of 2012?

A: Burlington Elementary School, Erie Middle School, Fredrick High School, & Northridge Elementary School.
Q: How will I know the facility is safe for occupancy after the asbestos abatement work is complete?

A: At the completion of the asbestos gross removal, a visual inspection of the work area is performed to assure the area is free of all dust/debris and an aggressive final air clearance of the work area is performed.

The final visual inspection and air monitoring are performed by an Air Monitoring Specialist (AMS) certified through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to perform these tasks. The AMS is hired independently by the District, not the abatement contractor, to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

The air samples are collected and submitted to a nationally recognized and accredited laboratory. The nationally accredited lab provides the analysis of the air samples and an official report detailing the air sample results to the District. The air sample analysis is performed by a lab that is independent of the AMS who collected the sample to avoid any conflict of interest.

As air sample results meet the EPA’s regulated air clearance criteria, the containments are removed and the contractor demobilizes from the facility.

At the project completion, a Response Action Summary detailing all the final air clearance sampling results, sampling locations, and AMS certifications will be made available for public review at each facility.

Q: What other safety precautions have been implemented to assure the health and safety of our students and staff members?

A: St. Vrain Valley Schools has hired a reputable asbestos abatement consultant to review the facilities for potential asbestos impacts, develop a remediation plan based upon impacts, and conduct project over-site and daily air monitoring outside the containments to assure no asbestos is released outside of remediation areas. This consulting firm has specialized in school asbestos management for over 20 years in Colorado and worked in over 22 Districts.

There is no legal requirement for daily over-site and air sampling outside of a containment, however, as a District we are going above and beyond the legal requirement to assure the abatement is performed properly according to Federal & State Regulations. St. Vrain’s project specifications are more restrictive than the minimum State regulatory requirements. This is done to assure our Student, Staff, and Community Member’s safety.

Also, we have isolated the facilities from Student, Staff, and Community Access during asbestos abatement operations (one of two Districts in the State whom set this requirement).

This is not due to an un-safe condition, it is to limit any potential concerns that may arise and to better control the work environment. Signs are posted at main entrances to each affected facility detailing project team members and their contact information.

Q: How do I know my child was not exposed to asbestos in the past?

A: Each facility has an Asbestos Management Plan available for review. Anyone impacting building materials are required to review the management plan prior to disturbing these materials. This responsibility assures safety of our Students, Staff & Community Members.