

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

March 26, 2018

Palmer Park Academy parents and families:

As committed, the District released the third-party, independent, environmental report from ATC Group Services LLC (ATC) on Palmer Park Academy's facility concerns to the faculty and staff this past weekend.

Please note, the report's findings do not indicate that mold levels pose a (significant, unusual or long-term) risk of harm to students, staff or visitors. Nevertheless, we will continue to work with health officials to further assess any potential health risks. Students and staff will continue this school year at the DIA building until all Palmer Park repairs have been made.

Mold testing is typically conducted by comparing the indoor mold levels to outdoor mold levels. Normally, indoor mold levels are less than outdoor mold levels. This is how environmental engineers assess whether there are elevated levels of mold inside a building. This type of indoor/outdoor mold comparison was used by ATC. ATC collected 82 indoor samples and compared them to 2 outdoor samples.

Of the 82 samples, eight (8) instances of elevated mold levels were identified due to water damage, and another eight (8) instances of fungus resulted from the water damage.

Out of the 16 instances identified four (4) were categorized as "Black Mold" (Stachybotrys). For example, Stachybotrys is not air borne and is localized. This means that you would have to be physically in the room where black mold is present, to be in contact with Stachybotrys. Further, we note that the 2nd Floor of the school, where the mold was found, was closed off by the district in 2011 and has not been utilized for student activities since. To that end, minimal persons should have been exposed to any mold (black mold or otherwise) located on the 2nd Floor of school.

Now that testing has concluded, the district will move forward with the remediation recommendations found in the report. Further, we will begin structural/cosmetic repairs to prepare the building for students and staff to return in Fall 2018. Such repairs include but are not limited to:

- A new roof
- Repair and restoration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor or middle school wing that has been closed for use since 2011
- Painting of walls throughout the school
- Replacement of water stained ceiling tiles

Please know that your child's safety and education has always been our utmost priority and continues to be at the forefront of each decision we make to ensure every DPSCD child is part of a healthy and conducive learning environment.

You can obtain a copy of the report at the school's office or on the District's website at [Detroitk12.org](http://Detroitk12.org).

Sincerely,

Nikolai P. Vitti, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, DPSCD