DURATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO ASBESTOS IN THE 2019–20 ACADEMIC YEAR

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<th>October</th>
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<td>2019</td>
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**SLA and Benjamin Franklin High School**

**TM Pierce Elementary**

- FLC
- Hill
- McClure

**Francis Hopkinson Elementary School**

**Clara Barton Elementary**

**James Sullivan Elementary**

**C. W. Henry**

**REFERENCE KEY**

- School was still closed as of February 2020
- One month
- School impacted by asbestos

**SOURCE**

Parents should report hazardous conditions to the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

To report hazardous conditions-
Contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection by phone at 484-250-5900 or via email at RA-epcontactus@pa.gov.
Contact the Philadelphia school board by phone @ 215) 400-4000 or by submitting a form using the link below-https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/contact/

Parents/Community should educate students on products that contain asbestos so they can avoid coming in contact with these products (Check out the information below).
https://www.asbestos.com/products/

Encourage your students to be aware of their surroundings and to stay calm if they come in contact with asbestos. To protect themselves and peers students should report concerns directly to a teacher or staff and limit contact in the area.

If you think your child has come into contact with asbestos, contact a doctor or health care professional.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND OUR COMMUNITY

1. Parents should report hazardous conditions to the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

2. Parents/Community should educate students on products that contain asbestos so they can avoid coming in contact with these products (Check out the information below).

3. Encourage your students to be aware of their surroundings and to stay calm if they come in contact with asbestos. To protect themselves and peers students should report concerns directly to a teacher or staff and limit contact in the area.

4. If you think your child has come into contact with asbestos, contact a doctor or health care professional.

RESOURCES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry - Asbestos and Your Health
https://bit.ly/3J5wXGb

Environmental Working Group - Five Myths About Asbestos in Schools
Community Voices

Here is what the community has to say about asbestos and how it has affected our teachers, students, and staff health in our schools -

"We were told we weren't allowed to go in [the room affected by asbestos] at all [...] but there wasn't really a choice if there had to be a set for the musical."

- Student at Masterman

"We do not feel safe in the building"
- Ethan Tannen, Masterman Teacher

"My kids are breathing it in [...] you have got to get my babies out of there"
- School District of Philadelphia Teacher

"We shouldn't have any asbestos in any dust anywhere"
- Christine Oliver, a former Harvard Medical School professor and author of a 1991 study about the health impacts of asbestos on custodial staff at Boston public schools.

"We will not stand for asbestos in our black and brown schools"
- Herman Douglas, Teacher at Bethune Elementary

"The science labs could have been a lot safer, a lot better, if they weren't all 20 years old"
- College Senior and Former Masterman Student
Katie Busch - The Daily Pennsylvanian - "Widespread Asbestos in Phila. Public schools"

Kristen A. Graham - Philadelphia Inquirer - "How Race, Class, And Privilege Shape the Asbestos Crisis..."

Neena Hagen - Chalkbeat - "Damaged Asbestos ..."

Mary Anne Dunkin - WebMD - What is Asbestos?

Michelle Whitmer - Asbestos.com - "Timeline: Asbestos in Philly Schools"

Katie Busch - The Daily Pennsylvanian - "Widespread Asbestos in Phila. Public schools"

Tori Sousa - The Daily Pennsylvanian - "Asbestos Concerns linger a year after Penn pledged $100 Mill..."

Kristen A. Graham - Philadelphia Inquirer - "How Race, Class, And Privilege Shape the Asbestos Crisis..."

https://wb.md/3muGnBn
https://bit.ly/3qCvMWn
https://bit.ly/30R0W3c
https://bit.ly/3Ja94gD
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Asbestos Crisis in Philadelphia Schools

 Eleven Philadelphia schools have been forced to close over asbestos exposure concerns since October 2019.

1. Benjamin Franklin High School
   Number of Students - 500

2. Science Leadership Academy
   Number of Students - 500

3. T.M. Peirce Elementary
   Number of Students - 500

4. Pratt Early Childhood Center
   Number of Students - 150

5. Franklin Learning Center
   Number of Students - 900

6. Alexander K. McClure Elementary
   Number of Students - 450

7. Laura H. Carmell Elementary
   Number of Students - 1,000

8. Francis Hopkinson Elementary
   Number of Students - 900

9. Clara Barton Elementary
   Number of Students - 500

10. James J. Sullivan Elementary
    Number of Students - 750

11. Charles W. Henry School
    Number of Students - 500
NEED HELP?
Are you a Philly Student with questions about advocating for better schools, testifying at school board meetings, or anything else? Contact us at: HELP@URBEDADVOCATES.ORG to get support from our team of experienced current and former school-district students!