

July 25, 2024

Dear Superintendent Collins and Principal Young:

Please find the attached occupancy letter you requested for North County Union High School. This letter is based on the results from testing the indoor air for PCBs in May and June. Please note that this occupancy letter represents the worst-case scenario for the upcoming academic year. It does not take into account any of the ongoing work that has been done at the school over the past month.

We are using all available State resources to remediate North Country Union High School with the shared goal to minimize academic disruption to students and families. The remediation work will remove (the currently identified) PCB-containing building materials that are emitting PCBs into the school's air. We expect this work to significantly reduce levels of PCBs in the indoor air. Once the work has been completed, we will retest the air and update the occupancy as updated results become available.

State staff will reach out later today to establish a standing weekly meeting with the school, its contractors, VDH, AOE and DEC representatives to ensure there are open lines of communication in the run up to school regarding progress with the remediation work. These meetings will include representatives from DEC, the Department of Health, and the Agency of Education.

Throughout the coming weeks we are committed to working with your school to develop a path forward that meets the educational, health, and mental health needs of your students and staff. We recognize the importance of in-person instruction in meeting these needs and would also like to meet with your community to hear their thoughts on how we can collectively achieve these shared goals.

Sincerely,



Zoie Saunders
Interim Secretary
Agency of Education



Julie Moore
Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources



Jenney Samuelson
Secretary
Agency of Human Services



Mark A. Levine, MD
Commissioner
Vermont Department of Health

