

## Westhill High School Student Concerns

### Ongoing Communication

- The Mold Task Force (MTF) was formed in late October to address potential mold issues across the district. In the interest of open and transparent communication, the MTF publishes regular updates to its website, welcomes emails from staff and students at [moldtaskforce@stamfordct.gov](mailto:moldtaskforce@stamfordct.gov) and holds weekly public meetings (each Wednesday in the Government Center) to inform of MTF work status and answers questions and concerns of staff, students and parents.

### Mold

- Two environmental specialist firms have independently inspected areas of WHS over the last several months and these assessments are continuing.
- Evidence of visible mold growth was discovered in limited areas of the school; water intrusion, both current and past, has also been identified. A significant amount of cleaning of dust/debris has also been identified.
- First phase of work, occurring at WHS now, is to remove all visible evidence of mold growth, active and dry, as soon as possible.
- Twenty-four rooms have been environmentally cleaned (diffusers and mold impacted ceiling tiles) by a professional remediation company and cleaning will continue this week.
- The next phase of work will be a further, more in depth assessment of the building infrastructure to address air quality throughout the building. The City is working to identify the professionals to do this work.
- All necessary repair and maintenance of the current HVAC system will occur on a regular basis until a more permanent solution is identified. On 12/11, a specialized cleaning company is coming to investigate the air ducts.

### Air Quality Tests

- We have been advised by experts in the field—environmental specialists, representatives of OSHA as well as other organizations—that air testing is not a reliable method to assess evidence of mold.
- According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health Epidemiologist/Industrial Hygienist, “Current evidence does not support measuring specific indoor microbiologic factors to guide health-protective actions.”
- The state Industrial Hygienist also referred to an expert review on the same topic that stated: “Combined elimination of moisture intrusion and leaks and removal of moldy items had sufficient evidence of effectiveness for reducing respiratory symptoms from asthma and allergies and was ready for widespread implementation.”
- There are no [EPA](#) standards for air quality.

**Health**

- Symptoms because of mold exposure varies from person to person.
- Teachers and students who have health concerns should see their own physician, who can determine if any systems are mold related.

**Academics**

- SPS is working with HR to identify qualified substitutes in each content area for teachers who are out for extended periods of time.
- SPS is in the process of develop plan to provide additional support to prepare students for AP exams.

