

Alexandria City Public Schools Maintenance Garage

Health Implications of Textbooks Covered with Dust Containing Metals

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Letter Health Consultation

August 8, 2014

Virginia Department of Health
Division of Environmental Epidemiology
109 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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August 8, 2014

Rich Groot, Assistant Director
Health, Safety, and Risk Management
Alexandria City Public Schools
1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Groot,

Thank you for sharing the July 31, 2014 ECS Dust Testing Services report for the Alexandria Maintenance Garage in Alexandria, VA. Toxicologists and public health experts at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed this information in consideration for the potential for children's exposures to textbooks and other school supplies stored at this warehouse. We focused on wipe sample W-1, collected from book surfaces within the book storage area, as most representative of potential children's exposures. This wipe sample also had the highest concentrations of metals detected of the three wipe samples collected at the facility. Even if a child consumed all of the dust detected on this wipe, it is unlikely this would pose a health risk. VDH recommends that the facility follow any recommendations provided by Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, and clean all surfaces including visually contaminated school supplies and books. Post-cleaning sampling is not necessary, but random sampling can be used to verify that surfaces have been adequately cleaned to background levels. Should post-cleaning testing be done, VDH would be happy to evaluate the results.

I trust that the above information will be of help to you. Should you have any additional questions please contact the VDH at (804)-864-8182 or at 109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Flammia".

Dwight Flammia, Ph.D.
State Public Health Toxicologist

Cc: Rebecca V. LePrell, MPH, Environmental Epidemiology Director
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REPORT PREPARATION

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