

December 8, 2022

Families,

As you know, Bicentennial School is undergoing building upgrades. To ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff during this construction, asbestos testing is completed regularly by a third-party.

Today, we received test results that indicated higher than acceptable levels of asbestos present in two of the three rooms under construction.

Out of an abundance of caution, Bicentennial School is closing early this afternoon. This includes closure of the after-school program. We are starting the early dismissal process now.

The school will remain closed on Friday, December 9, 2022 to allow for further testing and cleaning.

I recognize that receiving this information is concerning. I want to assure you that the safety and well-being of students and staff is our highest priority.

**Please note:** Students have not had access to the rooms under construction since November 25, 2022. Work in this area did not begin until November 28, 2022.

## **Next Steps**

- We have ordered immediate testing of all rooms in the school;
- All rooms in the school will be cleaned;
- All rooms in the school will be tested after cleaning is completed.

Your next update will come from Principal Trevor McGowan as soon as there is new information to share. This will come by Sunday evening at the latest.

Steve Gallagher

Regional Executive Director (Acting)

Halifax Regional Centre for Education