

Willowridge High School Mold Remediation FAQ

When was the mold discovered at WHS?

The power was shut down for construction in late June. During the first week of July, the Project Manager discovered suspicious growth. In the days that followed, an environmental consultant took samples and confirmed the presence of mold. It is believed that the conditions outside (with increased humidity) combined with the fact that there was no A/C in the building factored into the rapid growth of the mold spores.

How widespread is the mold? Is it black mold?

Suspicious growth was initially discovered in the Band Hall offices, but spread throughout the building, impacting a significantly large area of the school in some way, including offices, classrooms, etc.

While some media reports have referred to it as being "black mold," lab results from spore samples identified the mold as *Penicillium*, which is a common type of mold and not toxic black mold.

Has the school ever had mold issues before now?

Not of this nature or widespread. In older facilities, it is fairly common to have mold develop in areas that have excess moisture.

Is the mold harmful to my student's health?

Exposure to mold has little or no effect on a healthy person, and is typically harmful only if ingested. If you have any health concerns, please contact your family doctor or visit an area health clinic.

What about student uniforms stored at the school... are those safe for students to wear?

Yes. The District has contracted a professional cleaning company to thoroughly clean all band, JROTC and athletic uniforms for student use throughout the school year.

When do you expect the school to be cleared for students to re-enter the building?

Estimated completion is projected for mid-September, but additional work will need to be done before staff and students can return to the building. Because the health and safety of our students and staff is the highest priority, Fort Bend ISD will not clear the building until it has been completely cleaned and reinvigorated, and all necessary furniture and instructional items have been installed and delivered.

While District staff was initially optimistic that this could be achieved before the start of the school year, the District has learned that this will not be possible due to the extensive process and the lead-time required to restore the building and purchase replacement items.

District leaders have been working very closely with the WHS administrative team to develop alternative plans for the start of the 2017-18 school year, and we will advise our community about the plans as soon as they are finalized. Transportation will be provided to all students.

How will we know the building will be safe for re-entry?

We are working with certified environmental experts, who are required to follow state regulations, to clean and sanitize the building. Certified experts will then inspect the building to confirm that the area is mold free before crews replace flooring, sheetrock and ceiling tiles. Engineers will also conduct a full inspection on the school's HVAC unit, giving it a thorough cleaning and tune-up to control the airflow throughout the campus.

How do I contact school staff if the building is closed?

Willowridge summer staff is currently housed at Marshall High School (1220 Buffalo Run, Missouri City, 77489). You may contact staff at WHS' main number, 281-634-2450.

How is Fort Bend ISD supporting WHS staff members who have lost personal items?

Fort Bend ISD leaders are working closely with WHS administrators to make sure that all instructional materials, furniture and other items that have been lost are replaced as quickly as possible. However, we understand that many staff members also lost personal items, and we also want to support them in this difficult situation.

Because FBISD cannot replace personal items using district money, donated funds will be used to assist teachers with replacing the personal items they have lost. Proceeds from an online donation site (RevTrak) will be going into a faculty fund that can be used by the WHS administration to reimburse WHS teachers and employees for the value of personal items lost.

Will Willowridge students receive bus service while they attend classes at the Marshall building?

During this time, Willowridge students will receive bus transportation, and can find their designated pick up spots on the Willowridge High School webpage.

Will classes be combined for Marshall and Willowridge students?

In order to maximize space and ensure optimal student instruction, it is possible that in some instances, some MHS and WHS students would be in classes together. However, the students would still be taught by a teacher from their home campus.