

# Concord High School

## Works notification | 14 October 2024

As part of the NSW Government's plan to rebuild essential services, a project is underway to upgrade Concord High School to provide new and upgraded classrooms and facilities.

Planned remediation and demolition works for Block E (the existing hall and canteen) that were communicated on [9 September 2024](#) were completed in September.

### Unexpected find in work construction site

In late September as part of the pre construction archaeological inspections, suspected asbestos containing material was found in a small section in the ground underneath the previous school basketball courts.

Testing was conducted by an independent hygienist to confirm the nature of the material and what remediation was needed.

The material has been confirmed as friable asbestos. Friable asbestos can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure.

The area is located within the construction site which is separated by hoarding and inaccessible to staff and students. Works ceased immediately after the find, until additional safety measures were put in place to protect workers on site and the school. This included cordoning off the affected area and covering excavated materials with geofabric as well as additional personal protective equipment (PPE) for all workers within the exclusion zone.

We are following all the advice and protocols of independent asbestos hygienists and other experts.

There was no risk posed to the school community in this location prior to excavation, all asbestos prior to recent excavations has been managed in accordance with the schools existing Asbestos management plan.

All air monitoring to date across the site has returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it is consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL) as per SafeWork NSW guidelines.

These results represent a consistent finding that there is not a detectable level of asbestos fibres in the air in this area. Asbestos fibres pose a risk to health if airborne. In this case the evidence and advice from our hygienist is that there is not airborne asbestos in this area.



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## Remediation works

Work to remediate the site asbestos containing materials will take place in October and November 2024.

All work will be done in accordance with work, health and safety laws, and the site-specific Asbestos Management Plan. All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

The affected area will be inspected by the independent hygienist to confirm it has been fully remediated, and the school and contractor will receive a clearance certificate before proceeding with the works in that area. During this time the Contractor will continue normal operations in areas where asbestos containing material has not been detected.

For more information about asbestos, visit the NSW Health website:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/asbestos-and-health-risks.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/asbestos-and-health-risks.aspx)

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and local community is our highest priority. We will keep the community updated.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the NSW Department of Education using the details below.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.