

Dear staff and parents/carers,

On 16 May 2024, during a routine inspection, damage to a ceiling sheet in an undercover walkway, located outside of the school hall between the hall and sports equipment shed at Lisarow Public School was identified and reported.

On 14 May 2024, a staff member identified mould in 2 office rooms in the Administration Building.

Following the finds these areas were cordoned off from students and staff. The hall was able to be accessed using other entrances to the building.

Work in the walkway area outside the hall

The ceiling sheeting in the walkway outside of the hall, according to the school's asbestos register, contains bonded asbestos material. This means it was attached to other materials such as a painted surface, tiles or cement and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

NSW Health explains that if bonded asbestos is mixed with cement or other hard bonding materials, and in good condition, it is likely to be low-risk.

As a precaution, the walkway was immediately isolated from students and staff, and an independent hygienist was engaged to assess, provide advice and the ceiling sheeting was secured and temporarily repaired. Work to remove the material has been scheduled for Saturday 25 May 2024. Work will be done under the supervision of the independent hygienist with additional safety measures and air monitoring in place.

All work involving hazardous materials will take place outside of school hours, with additional safety measures and air-monitoring put in place while work is being done. All work will be done in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Following the work, the walkway will be inspected by the independent hygienist and a clearance certificate will be issued before the area is accessible to students and staff.

NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure

Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 1300 482 651

www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

Work in the Administration Building

Between 16 May and 18 May 2024, a specialist cleaning contractor was engaged to undertake an environmental clean of the areas where minor amounts of mould were detected. This work involved the removal of any impacted materials in 2 staff offices within the Administration Building.

Alternative office spaces were provided temporarily for staff until the cleaning works were completed.

Surface cleaning was also conducted in other buildings at the school (Buildings C, D, J and M). This work did not impact school operations.

All inspections and remediation works have been conducted in accordance with recommendations from the independent hygienist.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.