

Dear staff and parents/carers,

Further to our notification on 20 May about asbestos material at Lugarno Public School, we want to provide you with an update on some additional work and next steps.

Background

On Thursday 16 May 2024, 2 small fragments of cement suspected to contain asbestos were found near the basketball courts on the grounds at Lugarno Public School. The area was fenced off and made out of bounds.

Lugarno Public School has a site-specific asbestos management plan for known asbestos in-ground. The fragment was found in an area listed on this plan. The fragments were removed for testing by an independent hygienist outside of school hours on Friday 17 May 2024.

Testing confirmed that the fragments contained bonded asbestos, which means it was attached to other materials such as cement or vinyl 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.

On Saturday 18 May 2024, the independent hygienist undertook an inspection of the area around the basketball courts and playground. Additional fragments were found in the same location along the basketball court and near a tree in the playground. The fragments were immediately removed and sent for further testing. Additional fencing was put in place and Geotech fabric was laid on the grounds as safety measures. Testing has since confirmed these fragments contain asbestos.

Air monitoring in place

On Wednesday 22 May 2024, as a precautionary measure, air monitoring has been put in place. The independent hygienist also recommended a Remediation Action Plan to be developed.

A Remediation Action Plan will detail recommendations for remediation activities, to support and update the existing site-specific asbestos in-ground management plan for Lugarno Public School.

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Any remediation work recommended by the independent hygienist 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.

When remediation work is completed, the area will be inspected by the independent hygienist to confirm it has been fully remediated, and the school will receive a clearance certificate before the area is reopened for use.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.