



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT MENLO PARK
132 EVERGREEN ROAD
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08818-3013

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor
Commander-in-Chief

SHEILA OLIVER
Lieutenant Governor

☆
LISA J. HOU, D.O.
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General

8 JUNE 2023

Dear Residents/Staff Members/Families/POAs,

The following is an update to the initial communication we sent in regard to the drywall discoloration that was discovered during routine maintenance earlier in May. We have since contracted with licensed industry experts to help us understand and address this.

We have been advised that the standard practice to conduct mold testing is at the conclusion of abatement. Accordingly, NJ DMAVA just finalized two purchase orders, one with Environmental Design, Inc. for inspections and consultation, and the second with Active Environmental Technologies, Inc. for the actual abatement work.

An air sample "pre-test" is scheduled for 30 rooms, these include the 28 resident rooms which have been vacated, and the actual abatement work is scheduled to begin June 12. The results of this initial testing will take several business days but will help inform the level of effort required for the abatement. The scope of work at Menlo Park is phased and planned according to industry best practices, such as sealing the rooms undergoing work with the plastic sheeting and filtering the air in the work areas with separate equipment. To be clear, our own NJ DMAVA maintenance inspections, and inspections that are part of the consulting work, will continue alongside the abatement work. As drywall is removed, if any concerns are discovered, they will be communicated to the Home's leadership and our facilities offices for further evaluation.

Our goals are maximizing resident and staff safety, while minimizing disruptions to residents' daily lives, and providing ongoing updates as we receive new information.

Finally, please see additional information regarding mold testing from experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH):

CDC Source: Testing and Remediation of Dampness and Mold Contamination

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/indoorenv/moldtesting.html#:~:text=Appropriate%20remediation%20includes%3A%20Drying%20wetted%20materials%20within%2048,with%20proper%20containment%20when%20identifying%20mold%20on%20materials>

Testing

There are no health-based standards for acceptable levels of biological agents in indoor air. We do not recommend routine air sampling for mold with building air quality evaluations. This is because mold concentrations in the air cannot be interpreted in relation to health risks.

In many cases, very short-term sampling for mold spores is performed. However, the results may not represent actual exposures. Spore counts and culture results are often included in indoor air quality reports. These do not capture the full range of exposures.

What building occupants react to is unknown. It may be:

- Mold
- A compound produced by mold
- Something related to bacteria
- Compounds released into the air when wet building materials break down

Please also see the following New Jersey Department of Health resource:

https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/mold/mold_guidelines.pdf

We appreciate and request the insights of all our staff, residents, family members, those designated by power of attorney, and visitors, too. Please contact me at lisa.kranis@dmava.nj.gov to share additional concerns.

Sincerely,


Lisa Kranis, LNHA, MPA, CDP
Chief Executive Officer