

D. Newlin Fell School: Asbestos Hazard Report

The Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health has partnered with the Healthy Schools Initiative to analyze and report on public information regarding asbestos conditions in schools made available on the School District of Philadelphia's website.

This report is meant to communicate to parents, teachers, and staff the exposure risk at their school and help prioritize the removal of asbestos in high-risk exposure locations.

Our analysis is based on publicly available reports. We have not conducted inspections or verified the reports.

Key Findings:

- 74 teacher / student occupied spaces have asbestos containing material (ACM)
- 3 spaces had damaged ACM
- 22 spaces contained friable ACM
- **2 of 3 damaged** materials were scheduled to be abated

Our Recommendations:

- The School District scheduled the abatement for two of the three damaged ACM identified during their latest inspection in June 2025. The School District did not abate damaged friable asbestos containing pipe shaft in the coat closet in classroom 310 (see Table 1). We recommend this material to be abated immediately.
- The School District is required to regularly monitor the condition of their ACM by the EPA. We recommend the complete removal of friable ACM instead of encapsulation for materials that have been repeatedly damaged (See Table 1).



What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a fibrous material that is resistant to heat, water, and corrosion.

See this link for a comprehensive list: <https://prcch.upenn.edu/asbestos>

Asbestos was used in materials in schools, including:

- Ceiling Tiles
- Floor Tiles
- Pipe Insulation
- Cement
- Paint and Caulk
- Soundproofing
- Fireproofing
- Plaster Materials

What are the health effects of asbestos?

No immediate health impacts are expected from asbestos exposure in schools. However, breathing asbestos fibers in schools may increase the risk of developing cancer many years from now.

Children are very active, breathing more air while running and playing. Children take more breaths per minute than adults and are lower to the ground where asbestos fibers may settle. This puts them at an increased risk for asbestos exposure.

Are all asbestos containing materials of equal risk?

Some asbestos containing materials like ceiling and floor tiles have asbestos fibers imbedded in other materials. As long as they are not broken or damaged the asbestos fibers are not released into the air.

Some asbestos containing materials like insulation on pipe remains fibrous and can easily be released in the air when damaged.

How are damaged asbestos containing materials managed?

Asbestos can be removed. Sometimes damaged materials are managed in place by patching, encapsulating (using a specially formulated paint-like coating) or building an enclosure around damaged and/or accessible materials. All of these are forms of abatement.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires all remaining asbestos containing material to be inspected by the school district every six months. This is documented in an Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Report (AHERA Report).

Important Terms

Get to know these terms to make the most out of this report.

Damaged Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) can release asbestos fibers into the air.

Friable Materials can be reduced to a powder by applying hand pressure. **DO NOT TOUCH!**

Non-Friable materials are not easily damaged.

Significantly damaged materials are more than 10% damaged.

Abated ACM means repaired, removed, or reduced risk of exposure.

Detailed Review for D. Newlin Fell School

This school has 90 spaces with asbestos containing materials. 74 of them are in teacher / student occupied spaces. The School District last inspected ACM in Jun 2025 and published the AHERA report in Jun 2025. Since then, the School District scheduled the abatement of two of three damaged asbestos containing paint materials identified during this inspection.



We recommend that the school district immediately abate the damaged asbestos pipe shaft in the coat closet in classroom 310. We recommend that the School District completely remove friable ACM that have been repeatedly damaged in the past as listed in Table 1. Abatement was scheduled for some materials in 2025; however, the website does not confirm that the abatement was completed. A list of all the ACM in the school and their damage/abatement schedule can be found in the tables at the end of this report.

Information Reviewed to Make this Report:

The 2024/25 AHERA report from the School District of Philadelphia, and asbestos abatement notifications from the Air Management Services Online Portal.

Not included in this report are planned repairs to damaged asbestos materials that have not been uploaded to the Air Management Services website or any updated after August 15, 2025. To see the most current information, scan these QR Codes. After scanning, search for your school.

School Districts of Philadelphia Asbestos Reports:



AHERA Reports are documents generated from EPA required asbestos inspections

Office of the Controller Asbestos Project:



Asbestos abatement notification forms



Report what you see!

Parents and teachers should report hazardous conditions in schools on the Healthy Schools app.

Scan here to
download the app:



Disclaimer:

This report analyzes custodial and mechanical spaces like boiler rooms **only** when ACM is significantly damaged (damage > 10%).

Questions?

Find more resources on our website!

- Photo gallery of different types of damaged asbestos containing materials
- Guide to how we classify materials in schools
- Our analysis and reporting methodology
- What we do with the information in this report

prcceh.upenn.edu/asbestos



Email us at prcceh@penntestmed.upenn.edu or call 215-573-9076

Table 1: Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified

NOTE: Friable materials can be reduced to a powder by applying hand pressure.
Do not touch it! Damaged and significantly damaged friable materials readily release harmful asbestos fibers into the air.

Location	Material Name	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged? (Blank = No)	Abatement scheduled since the inspection? (Blank = No)
Main Office Storage Closet Pipe Chase	Pipe Insulation >6 inches		
Pipe Shaft in Teacher's Lounge Storage Room	Pipe Insulation >6 inches		
Pipe Shaft in Classroom 310 Coat Closet	Pipe Insulation >6 inches	Damaged. Previously reported damaged on 8/28/2023.	Not currently scheduled for abatement.
Former Tank Room in Main Attic	Pipe Insulation >6 inches		
Storage Closet beside Southeast Stairwell	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Girl's Restroom	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Girl's Restroom	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Boiler Room	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Boiler Room	Mud Packing associated with Pipe Insulation >6 inches		
Boiler Room	Sectional Boilers		
Boiler Room	Pipe Insulation >6 inches		
Boiler Room	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Gas Main/Storage	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	Damaged. Previously reported damaged on 10/15/2015, previously reported damaged on 12/5/2023, previously	Encapsulated in Jun 2025. Previously partially removed in Feb 2018, previously encapsulated in Aug 2024, previously

D. Newlin Fell School: Asbestos Hazard Report

		reported damaged on 6/6/2024.	encapsulated in Jan 2025.
Gas Main/Storage	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Emergency Generator/Storage	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Emergency Generator/Storage	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Gymnasium Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Gymnasium Office	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Building Engineer's Restroom beside Boy's Restroom	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
RM3 Storage Closet A	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
RM3 Storage Closet A	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Boy's Restroom beside Speech Classroom	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Boy's Restroom beside Speech Classroom	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Kitchen Serving Line	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Kitchen Serving Line	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Kitchen Serving Line	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Lunch Room	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Lunch Room	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Lunch Room	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway outside Rooms 1-3	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Hallway outside Rooms 1-3	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway outside of Cafeteria B	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Hallway outside of Cafeteria B	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Hallway outside of PTA Cafeteria and Girls Restroom	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Hallway outside of PTA Cafeteria and Girls Restroom	Pipe Fitting Insulation	Damaged.	Encapsulated in Jun 2025.
Lunch Room	Plaster Ceiling (Special Case)		
Lunch Room	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Lunch Room	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 2	Plaster Wall (Special Case)		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 2	Plaster Ceiling (Special Case)		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 2	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 4	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 4	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Speech Classroom	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Speech Classroom	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Music Room	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Music Room	Pipe Fitting Insulation		
Facilities Storage (former classroom)	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch		
Facilities Storage (former classroom)	Pipe Fitting Insulation		

Table 2: Non-Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified

NOTE: Significantly Damaged non-friable materials (damage $\geq$ 10% of the material) can release harmful asbestos fibers into the air.

Location	Material Name	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged? (Blank = No)	Abatement scheduled since the inspection? (Blank = No)
Classroom 100	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		

D. Newlin Fell School: Asbestos Hazard Report

Classroom 100 Coat Closet	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 100 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 100 Restroom	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 100 Restroom	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Women's Restroom	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Classroom 102	Sink Undercoat Mastic		
Classroom 102	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 102	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 102	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 103	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 104	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 105	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 106	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Boy's Restroom	Transite associated with Gang Urinal Chase Lid		
Classroom 107	Sink Undercoat Mastic		
Classroom 107	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 107 Coat Closet	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 107 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 107 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 108	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 109	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Men's Restroom beside Classroom 109	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Main Office	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Main Office	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Handicap Access to Auditorium/Auditorium Storage Closet	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Handicap Access to Auditorium/Auditorium Storage Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Hallway 207-209	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway between Classrooms 104 - 106	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Hallway between Classrooms 104 - 106	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Closet across from Classroom 104	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway Outside Main Office	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell outside of Main Office	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Classroom 107	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell across from 109	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Fire Tower Stairwell	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Classroom 102	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Classroom 200	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 201	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 202	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 203	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 204	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 206 Closet A	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 206 Closet A	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 206 Closet A	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Sever Room Inside IMC	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Sever Room Inside IMC	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Sever Room Inside IMC	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Storage Closet Behind 206A	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Storage Closet Behind 206A	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Storage Closet Behind 206A	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		

D. Newlin Fell School: Asbestos Hazard Report

Classroom 207	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 208	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 209	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Boy's Restroom	Transite associated with Gang Urinal Chase Lid		
Hallway from 207-209	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway Outside Classroom 204 to 206	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway outside of Classrooms 200 - 202	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Classroom 207	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Fire Tower Stairwell	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Classroom 202	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Classroom 300	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 300 Coat Closet	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 300 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 300 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 301	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 301	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 301 Coat Closet	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 301 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 301 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Classroom 302	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 303	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 304	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 305	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 306	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 307	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 308	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 309	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 310	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Classroom 310 Coat Closet	Mastic associated with Floor Tile		
Classroom 310 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"		
Classroom 310 Coat Closet	Floor Tile VAT 9" x 9"		
Large Storage Closet outside of Classroom 309	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Large Storage Closet outside of Classroom 309	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Large Storage Closet outside of Classroom 309	Linoleum		
Dean's Office 310A	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway outside Classrooms 307 - 309	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway Outside Classroom 304 to 306	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Hallway Outside Classroom 304 to 306	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway outside Classrooms 300 - 302	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Classroom 307	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Fire Tower Stairwell	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Classroom 302	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Auditorium Attic	Rooftop Ventilators		
Speech RM1 Storage Closet	Transite associated with Cove Base		
RM2 Storage Closet A	Transite associated with Cove Base		
RM2 Storage Closet B	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Boiler Room	Boiler Rope associated with Boiler		
Boiler Room	Fire Doors		

D. Newlin Fell School: Asbestos Hazard Report

Fan Room	Mortar associated with Plenum, Supply		
Gymnasium	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Building Engineers Office (accessed from Gymnasium)	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Gymnasium Office	Transite associated with Cove Base		
RM3 Storage Closet A	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Boy's Restroom beside Speech Classroom	Transite associated with Gang Urinal Chase Lid		
Kitchen Storage Room 1	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Kitchen Storage Room 3	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Kitchen Serving Line	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Lunch Room	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway outside Rooms 1-3	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway outside of Cafeteria B	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Hallway outside of PTA Cafeteria and Girls Restroom	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Lunch Room	Transite associated with Cove Base		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 1	Transite associated with Cove Base		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 2	Transite associated with Cove Base		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 3	Transite associated with Cove Base		
PTA Lunchroom Storage Closet 4	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Speech Classroom	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Speech Classroom	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Music Room	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Music Room	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Facilities Storage (former classroom)	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard		
Facilities Storage (former classroom)	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Basement Facilities Storage Room	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Northwest Stairwell Entrance Vestibule beside Room 3	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell and Foyer beside Boy's Restroom	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Fire Exit	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Stairwell beside Cafeteria B	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Visitors Entrance Foyer to Northeast Stairwell beside Cafeteria B	Transite associated with Cove Base		
Supply Chamber - Right Side	Fire Doors		