



WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Joseph Massimino, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Woodbridge Township Families,

I hope this finds you and yours doing well. I am writing to provide our entire school community with an update regarding the environmental assessment study recently completed at Colonia High School. As many of you have seen in news reports and social media, the investigation was in response to allegations that suggested Colonia High School had radiological hazards that contributed to diagnoses of brain tumors, cancers, and other central nervous disorders in former students and staff members. The school district and township administration contacted representatives from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH), the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss the matter. On April 5, 2022, the Woodbridge Town Council passed an Emergency Authorization to provide funding for the investigation. T&M Associates, a national consulting, engineering, environmental, and technical services management company and Cabrera Services Inc., a nationally recognized radiological and environmental remediation company, were then tasked with collecting data and conducting the necessary tests.

I am beyond pleased to announce that after an extensive field investigation that included assessing the classrooms, school building materials, and the entire 28 acres of the Colonia High School campus, no radiological hazards were identified that warrant further investigation. In a letter sent to the Township Administration, DEP Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette stated:

“In conclusion, the results of the radiological investigation at the high school and grounds are within the normal variation of background radiation levels in New Jersey and are therefore not indicative of concern over radiological exposure to individuals at the site. In addition, DEP’s further review does not indicate sources of environmental exposures of concern to public health. Accordingly, no further testing or remediation is required or recommended at this time.”

In an effort to share as much information as possible, there will be a livestreamed press conference today, May 26, 2022 at 4:00pm. I will be joined by Mayor McCormac, DEP Commissioner LaTourette, and DOH Commissioner Judith Persichilli at this event which can be accessed by visiting <http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/244/TV-35-36>. Additionally, the Summary Report: Radiological Investigation for Colonia High School; link to the Department of Health Reports and FAQs; and link to the Cancer Registry and all related information can be accessed by visiting www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us on the Woodbridge Township webpage.

The school district is thankful for your support and patience as I know the impact this has had on our community. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the leadership and poise of Principal Kenneth Pace, the administration, and staff at Colonia High School throughout this process. On behalf of our district administration and Board of Education, we would like to thank Mayor John McCormac and the Town Council and Administration for their unwavering commitment and collaboration. It is my hope that this news gives the Colonia students, families, staff members, and greater community an opportunity to breathe easier.

Sincerely,



Joseph Massimino, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools