

**School/Facility:** Clemens Crossing Elementary  
**Location:** Portable 176  
**Date of IEQ Report Form:** February 13, 2017  
**Date(s) Investigated:** February 14, 21, and March 2, 2017  
**Date of Report:** March 27, 2017

**IEQ Concern:**

Staff observed visible black dots and marks on floor tiles, especially at the seams. Staff tape lifted a sample and received a report they interpreted as positive for mold.

**IEQ Investigation Process:**

Identify deficiencies that may impact IEQ and/or sources of odor concerns. Typically includes the following depending on the nature of concern, but not limited to:

- interview/questionnaire of concern individual(s)
- inspection above drop ceiling (condition of roof deck, pipe insulation, return air plenum)
- inspection of ventilation system (operation of variable air volume box and outdoor air dampers, check controls, measurements of carbon dioxide, temperature and relative humidity, sources near outdoor air intake, measure return and supply air volume, cleanliness of coils, liner and condensate pan)
- inspection of exterior
- inspection below drop ceiling (housekeeping, sink and floor drain traps, signs of past and present moisture concern via visual and/or moisture meter, mold growth, ensure connection of current and capping of abandoned sanitary vents, odorizers, excessive plants and fabric items, identify potential pathways, and measure volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and lighting)

**Findings:**

- The marks were black scuffing caused by chairs having a rail base (meant for carpet floors). The areas having chairs with legs did not show signs of scuffing.
- Raised edges, such as seams of the floor tiles and transition plates (middle of portable) were most impacted.
- The wood floor substrate was dry as determined by a moisture meter calibrated to wood.
- HCPSS Office of the Environment interpreted staff's tape lift sample result as a clean surface (one type of spore and described as "rare" / number of spores counted) with no indication of mold growth. The industrial hygiene profession does recommend mold sampling (air or surface) for various reasons and can lead to misinformation and unnecessary concern and expense.

**Corrective Actions:**

- To assist with alleviating staff concern, Building Services and the Office of the Environment decided to remove and replace approximately 100 square feet of floor tile.
- Custodial waxed the new floor tile.
- Chairs with rail bases were removed from the portable and replaced with chairs having legs.
- The base of the chair legs were fitted with felt pads.
- The area was monitored before and after use with the new floor tile, chair exchange, and felt pads. The black markings did not return.