

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long will Columbia students be housed at Centennial High School?

A: We are working diligently to resolve the issue as soon as possible. At this time, we do not have a definite timeline. We are hoping that it will be safe for students to return to Columbia as soon as January 2019, but there are no guarantees. Our top priority is the safety and health of students and staff. Columbia will not reopen until we have been assured that it is safe to do so.

Q: Can my child transfer to another elementary school within the district?

A: If you wish to have your child attend another elementary school in the district, you can follow the normal process for transfers. We will help to facilitate the transfer to another school if the school has space/capacity to accept your child(ren). However, if you choose to transfer your child to another elementary school, you will be responsible for transporting your child to and from school. Keep in mind that it might be difficult for your child to readjust to a new teacher and new classmates after having become familiar with their current routine.

Q: Should I be concerned about a serious health risk to my student because of mold found in the school?

A: Molds are found in virtually every environment and can be detected, both indoors and outdoors, year round. Exposure to damp and moldy environments may cause a variety of health effects, or none at all. Allergies (hay fever-like allergic symptoms) are the most common health concerns associated with molds.

*** If you feel you are having symptoms related to exposure to mold, you should consult a health care provider who will decide whether you need referral to a specialist.**

Q: Who are the people at most risk for health problems associated to mold exposure?

The effects of mold on individuals can vary greatly. Here are a few facts from the CDC.

- People with a weakened immune system, such as individuals receiving treatment for cancer, people who have had an organ or stem cell transplant or someone taking medication that suppresses the immune system are more susceptible to fungal infections.
- People with allergies may be more sensitive to molds. Symptoms may include nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, coughing or wheezing, eye irritation, or, in some cases, skin irritation.
- Some people, such as those with allergies to molds or with asthma, may have more intense reactions.

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm>

https://www.cdc.gov/mold/dampness_facts.htm

<https://www.cdc.gov/mold/default.htm>

Q: Will my child be transported to and from Centennial?

A: Students who normally ride the bus will be picked up and dropped off at their regular stops. Students who don't normally ride the bus, can be dropped off and be picked up by parents at Centennial; or arrangements can be made for them to be transported by bus to and from Centennial daily. Parents who drop off or pick up their students need to use the southern drop off lanes at Centennial nearest University Avenue.

Q: Will my child be in the same hallways as the High School students?

A: We have done our best to isolate the area where the elementary students will be so that they will have limited interaction with the high school students. There will be a separate cafeteria dedicated to the elementary school students.