



POLYURETHANE FLOORING SURVEY - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Q: If my school building does not have any rubber-like polyethylene floors installed that are of an age noted in the information shared, do we need to submit a survey?**
A: *If your school building does not have floors of an age noted in the information shared, you do not need to submit a survey. However, since there have been a few reports of these floors having been installed in later years, if you have a rubber-like polyurethane floor that was installed in the early 2000s, you may also submit a survey.*
- 2. Q: Do I need to test my floors to determine whether they contain mercury before submitting the survey?**
A: *Floors do not have to be tested prior to submitting the survey.*
- 3. Q: Am I required to do anything now if my school has a rubber-like polyethylene floors installed that is of an age noted in the information shared?**
A: *There is no obligation to take further action. However, schools may choose to take a proactive approach and perform testing as indicated in the information shared. We are aware of legislation that has been introduced related to this issue and we are following the progress. If a bill is signed into law, further guidance may be issued.*
- 4. Q: Is there a deadline for submitting the survey?**
A: *There is no deadline for survey submission. However, it would be helpful to submit the survey as soon as possible so that results can be assessed.*
- 5. Q: If the flooring has already been removed from my school, do I need to respond the survey?**
A: *If the polyurethane flooring was previously removed from the school building, there is no need to respond to the survey.*
- 6. Q: Does NYSED or DOH have any information on symptoms to watch for in terms of exposure?**
A: *The presence of this type of flooring in schools has not been associated with symptoms in students, teachers or employees. The presence of mercury has been discovered after waste characterization testing when a floor is scheduled for removal, or when school districts perform testing after learning of another school's experience, not because of reports of symptoms in people using these areas.*
- 7. Q: In the letter from SED, Schools were directed to the Minnesota advice, but I am not interested in having a bulk sample removed from the flooring in my school.**
A: *DOH recommends screening for mercury vapor with a real-time instrument, providing it is sensitive enough to measure mercury concentrations below 1 microgram/cubic meter. The school may also test for mercury vapor using the more extensive NIOSH 6009 method if preferred. If your school plans on removing flooring, be aware that construction and demolition wastes must be characterized before disposal for hazardous content, and that testing can reveal the presence of mercury in the waste material.*