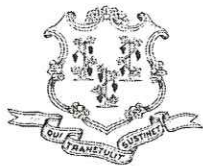


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

September 17, 2019

Mike Cummings, Superintendent
Fairfield Public Schools
501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210
Fairfield, CT 06825

Dear Mr. Cummings:

At the request of the Fairfield Director of Health and the Town of Fairfield, I reviewed soil analytical results from school playgrounds identified by the Fairfield Board of Education for soil testing. There are three playgrounds (Dwight Elementary School, Stratfield Elementary School and Holland Hill School) that the Board of Education and the Town wish to re-open where contaminants were detected at concentrations exceeding the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Residential Direct Exposure Criteria (R-DEC). I was specifically asked by the Town for advice about re-opening these three playgrounds. At Dwight and Stratfield Elementary Schools, soils exceeding the R-DEC are beneath approximately one to two feet of wood chip mulch. Additionally, rubber matting is used on top of the mulch beneath swings (where mulch is more likely to be scraped away by children using the swings). This thickness of mulch provides a sufficient barrier from direct contact with the soil. Provided that the mulch layer is maintained at least a foot thick, it should continue to prevent children from coming in contact with soil on a frequent and ongoing basis. Without frequent and ongoing contact with the soil, there are no exposures that would pose a public health concern.

At Holland Hill School, soil exceeding R-DEC is beneath 6 inches to 1.5 feet of wood mulch. Before re-opening the playground at Holland Hill School, the mulch layer should be increased to at least 1 foot in all areas to provide a sufficient barrier from direct contact with the soil. Rubber matting should also be used beneath swings.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret L. Harvey".

Margaret L. Harvey, MPH
Unit Supervisor, Site Assessment and Chemical Risks
Environmental Health Section



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