



28 NOVEMBER 2023 – STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS FROM THE CITY OF NORMAN CONCERNING MOLD DISCOVERY AND REMEDIATION AT NORMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTRAL

The Norman Public Library Central continues to be closed temporarily due to detection of elevated mold level in multiple areas of the facility. The facility was closed on November 16, 2023, immediately following test mold test results relayed from Cavins Group, specializing in disaster response services since 2014. Cavins Group continues to assist with mold remediation services, which are expected to be completed by late April 2024. The library is owned by the City of Norman and operated by Pioneer Library Systems. The facility was designed by Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle (MSR Design) and built by Flintco Construction.

Mold investigation and testing has consisted of a visual inspection, testing of air quality in common areas, and testing any areas of concern that were discovered during the visual inspection. Their testing methods consisted of spore trap samples, tape lifts, and bulk samples. A summary report provided to the City of Norman late last week and made available to the public at Normanok.gov, documented that 32 samples were taken to Quantem Labs for third party analysis and verification. The following areas had elevated mold levels, Fusarium, or Stachybotrys mold present: Staff office 115, first floor common area, first floor newspaper area, first floor southwest corner exit door, first floor bay windows in the children's area, second floor southeast corner, room 201A, third floor common area, Room 305, Room 311, third floor southwest patio exit door area, third floor south emergency exit stairwell, and the roof access door landing. The microbial growth located appears to be related to water intrusion.

The Central Library opened in November 2019 and water intrusion issues have been experienced since that time. In every instance, the City of Norman – owner of the facility – has acted swiftly to determine the cause of issues and resolve occurring problems. Remedies have include the replacement of the lower roof in 2020, sealing of windows and various roof repairs. This is communicated in Frequently-Asked-Questions that have also been made available for the community at Normanok.gov.

Cavins Group has recommended that all visible mold found should be removed, all areas of elevated microbial counts be properly cleaned and treated, and all exterior points of water intrusion be repaired to prevent further microbial growth. Determining specifics on where leaks are coming from and repairing them needs to be done before fuller remediation services can be carried out. These determinations will help be made by a building envelope consultant to be hired. A building envelope includes building components of a facility that separate the indoors from the outdoors. This work should highlight the root cause of issues that have led to mold growth. From there, the City will work with applicable parties to ensure the best solution is reached in remedying this matter.

At this time, mold is contained and isolated within the facility. Crews from Cavins Group are making daily inspections to ensure no changes to air quality or containment occurs. To date, no health concerns of staff or patrons have been brought to the attention of the City of Norman.

Our organization strives for transparency and quick resolve regarding this situation; frequent updates and reports will continue to be made available for all to review at Normanok.gov.

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