

UniServ Update

Healthy and Safe Working Conditions

Whether it's warm in the summer-time, cold in winter, or humid throughout the year, make sure you know what is in your contract about healthy and safe working conditions.

Article 11A: "On days when inclement weather or excessive heat causes an early dismissal, the workday of school-based Unit I employees will end as soon as the teacher's responsibilities for student supervision are completed;" the same applies for non-school-based Unit 1 employees.

Article 18E: "The closing of schools as a result of adverse environmental conditions will be considered on an individual school basis by the Superintendent of Schools or designee. Decisions concerning the length of the working day and place of duty for Unit I members will be made simultaneously."

Mold in Your Buildings

As school buildings continue to age, the presence of mold has become more common. However, it is still a serious concern. Take these steps if you identify mold in your building:

1. Immediately report your discovery to your building's Chief Custodian, who will communicate the concern to facilities, 443-770-5221.
2. If your concern is not immediately resolved, your next steps should be:
 - a. Contact your Board of Education member
 - b. File a complaint with the Department of Labor, Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Department
 - c. Reach out to your TAAAC UniServ Director at 410-224-3330

The Operations Team is expected to make the cleaning and disinfection of mold a top priority. They will take the following steps to discover the cause and remedy the issue:

1. Diagnosis and Reporting:

- Upon identifying mold, the Operations team must diagnose the cause (e.g., leaking roof, pipe, HVAC malfunction).
- Submit necessary work orders to address the root cause.
- Notify the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) team immediately. EHS may require a preliminary site visit before cleaning if deemed necessary.

2. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Exposure Control:

- In most cases, cleaning/disinfection protocols can begin immediately using approved disinfectants.
- Mold exposure risk is minimal to zero if impacted areas are properly treated with disinfectant. Guidance is provided based on hard surfaces, upholstery/carpets, or liquids
- Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during cleaning includes gloves and eye protection. Voluntary use of an N95 mask is recommended.

For additional guidance, refer to the EPA's Mold Remediation Guide, specifically Tables 1 and 2a: [EPA Mold Remediation Guide](#).

If you feel your workspace is unsafe, work with your admin to contact facilities at 443-770-5221, then call your TAAAC UniServ Director at 410-224-3330