

The Lakeland Central School District will be conducting an immediate cleaning of the Benjamin Franklin Elementary School following receipt of a slightly elevated test by the Westchester County Health Department for the presence of PCBs. All activities at the school have been relocated until the cleaning and testing is finished.

The District learned of the test results late Friday (July 18) afternoon. Two door areas were tested by the Health Department in late June with only one area showing a slightly elevated level of PCBs. The test on the second area was below the levels recommended by the Health Department.

Students in a summer camp run by the town of Yorktown have been relocated to the Lakeland Copper Middle School. In addition, a district ESL program and a teacher workshop have also been moved.

“We have acted immediately to begin a cleanup of the area in question. We are working closely with the Health Department to clean up the situation,” said Lakeland Superintendent for Business Raymond Morningstar.” Crews will be conducting a thorough cleaning of the school this weekend. In addition, an outside testing company will be conducting tests on Monday.

The door area in question was part of an ongoing door replacement program in the district. The cleanup and testing will be conducted in all areas that were part of the door replacement program.

It has not been determined what the source of the PCBs was. A PCB/Asbestos abatement project was conducted prior to the removal of the doors earlier this year.