



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)

April 10, 2008

Tony Sanders  
Chief Communications Officer  
School District U-46  
355 E. Chicago St.  
Elgin, IL 60120-6543

Dear Mr. Sanders:

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has received the results of the formaldehyde testing performed in the portable classrooms in your school district. The samples were taken to determine whether formaldehyde levels in the portable classrooms posed a health hazard for students and teachers.

The levels of formaldehyde detected in the samples ranged from 1 part per billion (ppb) to 4.7 ppb. While there are no health-based comparison values that are used for exposure in schools specifically, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has set a chronic minimal risk level of 8 ppb. This is the level that would not be expected to cause adverse health effects over a long period of time if people are exposed 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Exceeding this level does not necessarily mean that adverse health effects will occur. Since teachers and students are only in the portable classrooms part of the day and less than 7 days per week, this level is very conservative. All of the sampling results were less than 8 ppb.

IDPH does not recommend any changes in the use of the portable classrooms. Based on the sampling results, no one would be expected to experience adverse health effects from exposure to the very low levels of formaldehyde in the classrooms. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 217-785-3239.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Davis".

Jennifer Davis  
Environmental Health Specialist

*Improving public health, one community at a time*

*printed on recycled paper*