

# **OLMSTED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.**

**1992 Route 9, Garrison NY 10524**

phone 845 424 4077 • fax 845 424 3482 • email [Olmsted.mac@me.com](mailto:Olmsted.mac@me.com)

---

Date: December 28, 2020

Report for: Margaret Sergent  
Second Vice-President  
Health and Safety Chairperson  
30 North Union Street, Suite 301  
Rochester, New York 14607

Email: [mmsergent@rochesterteachers.com](mailto:mmsergent@rochesterteachers.com)

Prepared by: Ed Olmsted, CIH, CSP  
Jennifer Long, MS

Subject: **School Inspection**  
**School 12 Rochester, NY**  
**999 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14620**

On Tuesday, December 22, 2020, Ed Olmsted and Jennifer Long as well as Margaret Sergent, representing the Rochester NY Teachers Association inspected representative classrooms at School 12 located at 999 South Ave, Rochester. The survey team included representatives of the Rochester City School District (RCSD) including Stacie Darby, Environmental Health and Safety, Matthew Seeger, Schools Facilities Management, and Tom Keysa of Schools Facilities Management. The survey was done as part of the exposure control program for pandemic SARS-CoV-2. The Rochester City Schools District instituted many exposure control measures for the coming year including mandatory wearing of masks, distancing of occupants (reduced occupancy), enhanced cleaning, operating the ventilation systems with a maximum fraction of outside air, installation of ASHRAE MERV 13 filters, where the HVAC units can accommodate them, and the provision of air purifiers to all occupied spaces. Each school will temperature screen entrants and have a nurse's office. Students with symptoms or suspected of having COVID-19 will be isolated in an isolation room.

The building will be utilized this January for in-school classes starting with special education students and phasing in elementary and middle school students. This inspection was requested prior to the students' return. The survey was done on December 22, 2020, and included the following:

1. A visual inspection of a number of representative classrooms, nurse's office, and isolation room as well as the mechanical room(s);
2. Taking airflow measurement at supply outlets, return/exhaust grilles, univents, and open windows using a TSI 9515 VelociCalc Air Velocity Meter (anemometer); and,
3. A visual inspection of the building ventilation system(s).

The findings include:

1. School 12 has a centralized HVAC system, but most classrooms and offices are served by vertical univents. They were found in both the classrooms, Room 203 and 205, that are planned to be in-use during the early January reopening. The univents are standalone units that have a heating and cooling coil and outside air inlet. The units also have a filter installed at the base that have the maximum MERV rating for the equipment. The filters inspected indicated MERV 10. It was reported that these units cannot accommodate MERV-13 without significant static pressure lose. They would significantly diminish these units' ability to bring in any outside air.
2. It was noted in Room 205, that there was a number of items stored around the vertical univent. This will diminish the unit's ability to properly ventilated the room.
3. Some, not all, classroom have a bank of windows on the exterior walls that can be opened for outside air. Classroom 203 is an interior room which relies on the vertical univent for ventilation.
4. The Room 131 suite, containing the nurse's office and the isolation room, are ventilated by the building's central HVAC system. From these central ventilation units, tempered and filtered air is distributed to this room through a system of ductwork and the supply air ductwork terminates at supply diffusers located on the ceiling. Air velocity measurements were taken at the supply diffusers in the nurse's office and isolation room and found to be delivering ventilation air to the rooms.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The classrooms have univents that provide outside air. The classrooms have sufficient ventilation capacity to be occupied. Where possible and if necessary, teachers can open two windows in each room to an opening of two inches. This will provide natural ventilation without causing the room to become cold. Opening the window at the top is adequate to provide sufficient ventilation to the room. The air moves through the open windows with the classroom door either open or closed. Staff should be advised to minimize storage around the vertical univents in their room.



Inside vertical univent in Room 203