

Frequently Asked Questions:

1). Why was the building temporarily closed?

The building was closed due to the potential for low-level asbestos exposure identified in a specific area. While the risk is believed to be minimal, we are prioritizing the safety and well-being of all employees and students by taking immediate corrective measures.

2). What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that was commonly used in the early 1900s through the 1970s in various building materials for its insulation and fire resistance.

3). Is asbestos dangerous?

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, asbestos only becomes a concern when it is disturbed, as in during construction projects. When materials containing asbestos are disturbed, microscopic fibers can be released into the air and inhaled. This can pose health risks with prolonged or repeated exposure

4). Was I exposed to asbestos, and if so, for how long?

The health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff are our highest priority. Additional testing has found no asbestos in areas of the NMC building that are not under construction, indicating those working or attending classes in those areas were not exposed to asbestos. Additional testing of the area under construction was inconclusive. The temporary closure of the NMC building was an appropriate safety measure while experts thoroughly assessed the situation to ensure the issue has been fully remediated and the environment is safe.

5). How long will the NMC building remain closed?

Out of an abundance of caution, the NMC building will remain closed until all asbestos abatement of the current construction areas of the building is complete. The building will remain closed through summer term. The College will provide an update with a specific reopening date sometime in July and will provide an update at least one week prior to reopening the building.

Again, out of an abundance of caution, the building will remain closed to allow contractors to complete the abatement more quickly and help prevent future disruptions to classes while the work continues.

6). How long was the College aware of this issue prior to notifying employees and students?

The College received notification of test results on the afternoon of Monday, April 20, 2026. Work on the communications to inform employees and students began almost immediately thereafter, with the initial communication shared via IvyAlert at approximately 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 20, 2026. More detailed communications were

sent within an hour. The College will continue timely, regular communication with employees and students.

7). What should I do if I'm concerned about my health?

Based on current information, those working or attending classes outside of the construction area were not exposed to hazardous levels of asbestos. Health experts, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Cancer Institute (NCI), indicate that people who become ill from asbestos are usually those who are exposed to it on a regular basis, most often in a job where they work directly with the material or through substantial environmental contact.

If you are experiencing symptoms or would like an evaluation, **if you are an employee**, please take the following steps

- Complete an [Employee Accident Report](#) in MyIvy. If you cannot complete the report yourself, your supervisor can complete it on your behalf.
- Call the 24/7 Nurse Triage Line at (844) 454-1143 for evaluation options.
- Communicate your work status with your supervisor and campus HR immediately following the Nurse Triage call, and any visit to a healthcare facility.
- If you are experiencing any sort of emergency, call 911 immediately

If you are a student, please contact your medical provider and reach out to Niki Fjeldal, Vice Chancellor Student Success for Indianapolis, nfjeldal@ivytech.edu or you may complete a request for student assistance by completing the student assistance request form [here](#). Someone from the College will receive that request and get back to you.

8). What actions are being taken to address the issue?

Additional testing was done inside the NMC building and we received results that indicate that the building does not have asbestos outside of the construction area. Additional testing done in the construction area was inconclusive. Out of an abundance of caution, we are taking additional measures to ensure the safety of our students, staff and faculty, including:

- Deep-cleaning the areas where testing was inconclusive
- Additional re-testing will be done when cleaning is completed
- Confirming all HVAC units are not recirculating air from construction areas
- Completing all asbestos abatement of the current construction areas of the building before reopening

9). Where should I work during this time?

Employees should follow guidance from their supervisor regarding:

- Temporary work locations
- Remote work arrangements
- Adjusted schedules, if applicable

10). Will employees be able to retrieve items from the building?

Yes, employees will receive a separate communication during the week of May 18 with details about a planned window of time to enter the building and retrieve any items needed.

11). Should I be concerned about bringing items home or special cleaning for items that were in the building?

Testing has found no asbestos in non-construction areas of the building.

12). How will I receive updates?

We are committed to keeping you informed and will share information via:

- Email communications
- IvyAlert (if applicable)
- Supervisor updates
- Ivy Tech's incident [website](#)

13). There have been faculty, staff and students in that building for years, does this mean they have an increased chance of becoming seriously ill from asbestos exposure?

According to the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#), asbestos only becomes a concern when it is disturbed, so anyone in the building prior to construction in the specific area would not be impacted.

14). Could asbestos spread through the air handling systems to other floors in the building?

Testing found no asbestos in the non-construction areas of the building. We are confirming all HVAC units are not recirculating air from construction areas before re-opening the building.

15). What is being done to prevent this in the future?

It's important to note that many older buildings were constructed using materials that contain asbestos, so a risk of exposure exists during renovations. The College hired experts to conduct air sampling and ensure that protective measures have been in place. By combining early detection, proper remediation, clear communication, and consistent enforcement of safety standards, we can make the risk of asbestos exposure minimal.

16). Who can I contact with additional questions?

- Human Resources: Fred Parker at fparker11@ivytech.edu
- Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness: Chuck Owen at dowen5@ivytech.edu
- Facilities: Bret Swinford at bswinford9@ivytech.edu
- Students can reach out to [Niki Fjeldal](#) at nfjeldal@ivytech.edu.
- Legal and Public Affairs: MJ Michalak at mmichalak@ivytech.edu

- Media: MJ Michalak at mmichalak@ivytech.edu or Annie Goeller at agoeller1@ivytech.edu