

Questions for Adams 12 Five Star School District

Q1. Do you have a formal communication procedure for notification from oil and gas operators for emergencies and that they are entering well completion when you may want to consider turning off your HVAC system in schools that are within .5 – 1 mile?

A1. In the case of emergencies near our schools, we partner with and rely on our first responders to inform us of any risk associated with the situation that may impact our schools. If first responders prescribe a specific protocol to ensure our students are safe we will follow the prescribed protocol, including modifying our air flow within our facilities.

The majority of oil and gas companies have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that includes contacting the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The Adams 12 Five Star School District is a regular participant on the LEPC as well as at the Adams County Office of Emergency Management. This direct relationship with our first responders and emergency planning agencies positively impacts our emergency planning. In fact, Adams 12 Five Star Schools is listed in the Adams County Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Operations and Recovery Plan (EORP) which is a component of the LEPC.

Q2. Do you have an air filtration system at schools that can filter out any of the following: silica used in oil and gas productions, particulate matter less than 10 microns; particulate matter less than 2.5 microns, lead, sulfur dioxide, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone?

A2. Adams 12 Five Star Schools currently specifies a MERV rating of 8 for filters used in our HVAC systems . A MERV rating of 8 will filter particulate between 3-10 microns, and are commonly used in residential and commercial applications.

The district occasionally uses Activated Carbon filters in our facilities. Activated Carbon filters are often used in HVAC applications to remove "some of almost any vapor". Activated Carbon, the universal adsorbent, will adsorb some Organic Compounds including Acids, Alcohols, Aldehydes; will remove some Chlorinated Hydrocarbons, Esters, Ethers, Ketones, Mercaptans, Amines; will remove some inorganic compounds, Halogen Acids, Halogens, Sulphuric Acid, Sulphur Dioxide, Phosgene; and will remove some miscellaneous odors including those from humans, animals, foods, cooking, and waste processes. Common areas of use for Activated Carbon filters include airports, libraries, hospitals, research facilities, office buildings, computer rooms, clean rooms, electrical rooms, microelectronic applications, retail stores, print shops, stadiums, auditoriums, municipal buildings, restaurants, homes, pet hospitals, pet groomers, medical laboratories, nursing homes and health care facilities.

It should be noted that according to the research conducted by district staff the majority of silica used in oil and gas operations is primarily used downhole therefore minimizing risk of exposure to schools which are not located at the drilling site.

Q3. What is the MERV rating on the filters used on the HVAC systems at schools?

A3. Adams 12 Five Star Schools currently specifies a MERV rating of 8 for filters used in our HVAC systems . A MERV rating of 8 will filter particulate between 3-10 microns, and are commonly used in residential and commercial applications.

Q4. What is the procedure for children experiencing respiratory issues or distress at school or school functions?

A4. Schools follow any recommendations from doctors that have been provided by parents as to administering asthma and allergy medications. If a student or faculty member is experiencing any health issues the school will first contact the parents or emergency contact for the student or faculty member to make them aware of the issue. If the health issue is an emergency the school will contact 911 immediately. School faculty are provided with awareness training for identifying and/or recognizing symptoms of distress.

School staff focus on "avoidance" of possible health issues caused by "triggers" such as allergens and asthma irritants as their first and most important level of safety and protection for students and staff as it pertains to student health. Furthermore the district has multiple forms used by parents of students with allergies which include a health care plan, medication authorization, and asthma action plan.

Q5. What is the procedure at school for recess or other outdoor activities on high ozone days or other air pollution days?

A5. High Ozone typically occurs on hot, sunny, windless days during the summer outside of the school year, as such we don't have a specific protocol addressing high ozone days. Recess would only be restricted if a public health agency advises against outdoor activities due to high air pollution. Parents who are concerned with their student participating in recess due to air quality concerns should discuss this with school administration.

Q6. If an oil and gas operator had an emergency situation that required a school or multiple schools to be evacuated, what is your procedure and what is the expected response time?

A6. The district follows emergency response protocols prescribed in the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). The SRP provides four actions for students and staff to use empowering them as "decision makers" in a crisis. The response action matrix the SRP is based on was first created by the Adams 12 Five Star School District and then adopted and promoted by the I Love You Guys Foundation. The SRP is now being used across the United States. The four emergency response actions prescribed by the SRP are as follows:

Lockdown – Students and staff move away from sight, maintain silence and lights are turned off.

Lockout – Students and staff stay inside. They increase situational awareness and it is business as usual inside the building.

Evacuate - Students and staff leave the building immediately, leaving all items behind. Roll is taken for missing students, once they are clear of the threat.

Shelter - Students and staff shelter in-place inside a building. They can shelter for multiple reasons (i.e. – for a possible tornado or a possible HAZMAT). Sheltering is done in an appropriate place. Roll is taken for missing students.

In addition to following the SRP Adams 12 Five Star Schools also requires each school administrator to take/pass two FEMA classes online. These classes prepare school administrators on how to respond to crisis/emergencies in schools and teach the language of unified emergency response.

Fire Departments are held to response standards that are provided by the National Fire Protection Association. NFPA 1710 establishes a standard for the organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special operations to the public by career fire departments. Fire departments' fire suppression resources shall be deployed to provide for the arrival of an engine company within a 240-second travel time to 90 percent of the incidents according to the NFPA standards.

The standard also covers the competencies for awareness level personnel, operations level responders, hazardous materials technicians, incident commanders, hazardous materials officers, hazardous materials safety officers, and other specialist employees.

Q7. Will you be / Can you educate your teachers on signs of exposure to emissions? For example: fatigue, nausea, nose bleeds, rashes, upper and lower respiratory issues.

A7. Teachers send students who are exhibiting any signs or symptoms of illness to the school health aide. We also encourage students who are not feeling well to alert their teacher so the teacher can take appropriate actions.

Q8. Are you aware of the CDPHE doing a health study on the effects of oil and gas operations near populations and will you educate your educators and administrators to recognize these symptoms and understand the notification procedures to the state?

A8. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is conducting a study and has a forum for submitting complaints/concerns as they pertain to environmental health concerns as they pertain to oil and gas production. The forum can be found at <http://www.oghir.dphe.state.co.us/>.

Educators and administrators are asked to respond to all student health concerns and follow the protocol of sending the student to the school health aid for notification of parents/guardians and further observation.

Q9. Will you put the information from the CDPHE (symptoms and state notification) in your newsletter the Adams 12 Five Star Journal and will you notify parents will your notification system (email/voice mail/text) on a regular basis?

A9. The district will put an article in the Five Star Journal introducing and explaining the role of our Environmental Program Manager. The Environmental Program Manager is a contributor to the safety and health of our students and staff in all of our facilities.

The district is proud of our great working relationship with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Tri-County Health Department. The district regularly partners with these agencies to get important information out to the public as they deem necessary and appropriate.

The district currently has three employees in leadership roles at the Educational Support Center with degrees/advanced degrees/professional registrations in public health. We are committed to providing a safe and secure learning and teaching environment to our students and staff.