



# Administrative Services

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Justice Center Employees,

I am writing to let you know that we have recently learned of the presence of non-friable asbestos in building materials slated for deconstruction as part of an upcoming remodel at the Justice Center. Non-friable means the asbestos cannot be released into the air on its own; the block would need to be disturbed in some way (such as during a demolition project) in order for the asbestos-containing fibers to be released.

During required pre-construction testing of building materials in the area identified for the remodel, a third-party testing company found a low level of asbestos-containing material in the form of a block filler coating in the original cinder block walls in the identified construction space.

Although we have tested and successfully mitigated other types of asbestos-containing materials such as tile, insulation, and roofing material at projects at the Justice Center and in other county-owned buildings for many years, the block walls were never tested or identified as being suspect for containing asbestos material prior to this remodel project.

The external consultant who performed the testing informed us that because of the nature of the asbestos-containing substance (3 percent chrysotile) and because the block is overlaid with multiple coats of paint, the presence of the asbestos in the block filler coating does not pose a health hazard when left undisturbed (i.e., as part of a normal work day).

As a precaution, we immediately hired CTL Thompson, an industry-leading environmental engineering firm, to perform extensive air quality testing for airborne asbestos fibers.

**While we don't have all of the details yet, we wanted to share with you everything we know to-date and to continue to keep you updated as we learn more.**

## **What we know**

Testing of indoor air samples at the Justice Center completed this past weekend (under typical work day ventilation conditions) determined that the samples are within or below Colorado Maximum Allowable Asbestos Levels. This means that the building is safe to occupy. A copy of the test results is attached to this email for your review. The county's Building Services Division also will work with our construction management firm, Milander White, to ensure that the upcoming construction project safely removes and disposes of the coating on the cinder block walls under a carefully managed asbestos abatement plan.

## **What we're still seeking to learn**

While we can't turn back the clock and test block materials that were removed as part of construction projects in the past, we are committed to undertaking additional testing and analysis of cinder blocks in other locations at the Justice Center to determine what, if any, potentially hazardous conditions may have existed in the past when construction projects were underway. We are also continuing to work with our consultants on an additional ventilation system test. Results of this test will be shared with you as we receive them.

**Next steps**

We are actively seeking to remediate the situation so that potential exposure to asbestos during any disturbance of building materials is avoided. To this end, we will be working with our consultants to help us create a plan to ensure proper management of all work that impacts affected block walls in the future.

We also are consulting with health care experts to better understand the possible health impacts associated with any potential exposure to this material that may have happened in the past. The good news is that at the levels we encountered in our testing, the likelihood of human health impacts appears to be very low. Nonetheless, we are working with our Worker’s Compensation provider clinics to be able to offer healthcare testing for current or former county employees who are concerned about asbestos exposure.

If you are a Boulder County employee and feel you may have been subject to asbestos exposure, please contact Peak Form Medical Clinic (695 S. Broadway, Boulder, CO 80305; 303-402-9283) to schedule a medical assessment. Please note, you do not need to fill out a Worker’s Compensation claim form in order to schedule this medical assessment.

State employees may contact any of the following representatives to assist with filing a first report of injury with the state worker’s compensation provider.

**Trial Court:**

Erika Skufca at 303-441-4921 or [Erika.skufca@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:Erika.skufca@judicial.state.co.us)

**Probation**

Tracey Sogi, Human Resource Representative at 720-217-2069 or [tracey.sogi@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:tracey.sogi@judicial.state.co.us).

Janice McMullin, Risk Manager for Colorado Judicial Branch at 720-625-5909 or [Janice.Mcmullin@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:Janice.Mcmullin@judicial.state.co.us)

If you decide to seek medical attention and want your claim to be covered by workers’ compensation, state employees will need to go to one of the following workers’ compensation providers listed below.

<b>Boulder Designated Providers</b>	<b>Longmont Designated Providers</b>
Concentra Medical Centers 3434 47th St., Suite 100 3300 28th Street Boulder, CO 80301 Phone: 303-541-9090	U.S. HealthWorks 1860 Industrial Circle Longmont, CO 80501 303-682-2473
Workwell Occupational Medicine 3434 47 <sup>th</sup> Street, #100 Boulder, CO 80301 303-219-5022	Careplus Medical Center 1551 Professional Lane, #140 Longmont, CO 80501 303-776-2001

U.S. HealthWorks 1690 30th Street Boulder, CO 80301 Phone: 303-443-0496	Workwell Occupational Medicine 205 S. Main Street, #C Longmont, CO 80501 303-702-1612
Concentra Medical Centers 3300 28 <sup>th</sup> Street Boulder, CO 80301 303-541-9090	Longmont Clinic 1925 W. Mountain View Avenue Longmont, CO 80501 303-776-1234
Foothills Hospital ER 4747 Arapahoe Boulder, CO 80303 303-415-7000	Longmont United Hospital ER 1950 West Mountain Avenue Longmont, CO 80501 303-651-5111

As we continue to work with the outside experts we have hired to advise us on asbestos-related matters, we will communicate with you as soon as we know more. There are also some excellent reference materials on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website where you can learn more about asbestos, including the attached fact sheet.

Other meetings will be scheduled to give past and present employees an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this matter further, and we'll provide you with additional information as we gather more data.

Yours sincerely,



Jana Petersen  
Director, Boulder County Administrative Services

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. CTL Thompson Asbestos Air Sampling and Analysis Report
2. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment fact sheet on asbestos