

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 and to prioritize 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. To that end, the College engaged contractors to apply all appropriate asbestos precautions throughout the construction process, giving rise to the recent sampling event and evacuation. Additional testing was done and the results indicate that the building does not have friable or airborne asbestos outside of the construction area. This is important because friable or airborne asbestos can be inhaled and pose health risks when fibers are present in occupied spaces. Since none was detected outside the construction zone, it means the air in those areas is considered safe for normal use and occupancy. Additional testing done in the construction area was inconclusive. The temporary closure of the NMC building was an appropriate safety measure while experts thoroughly assessed the situation to ensure the issue is fully remediated or abated and the environment is safe.

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

As of April 24, 2026, we do not have a timeline for when we will be able to reopen the building. The College engaged contractors to apply all appropriate asbestos precautions throughout the construction process, giving rise to the recent sampling event and evacuation. Additional testing was done and the results indicate that the building does not have friable or airborne asbestos outside of the construction area. This is important because friable or airborne asbestos can be inhaled and pose health risks when fibers are present in occupied spaces. Since none was detected outside the construction zone, it means the air in those areas is considered safe for normal use and occupancy. Additional testing done in the construction area was inconclusive. Out of an abundance of caution, we will be taking additional measures to ensure the safety of our students, staff and faculty, including deep-cleaning and re-testing of the building and any needed abatement and remediation. (In this context, *abatement* means safely removing or

containing any hazardous materials, like asbestos, so they no longer pose a risk. *Remediation* means cleaning up and restoring the area so it is safe for normal use again.) We are also confirming that all heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units are not recirculating air from construction areas and that the proper protections are in place before re-initiating the construction work. We want to reiterate that we closed the building not because of a mandate by any agency, but due to an abundance of caution with the health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty in mind.

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

The College had professional contractors in place during construction due to the possible discovery and/or disturbance of asbestos containing materials. The College received notification of test results indicating the potential release of asbestos into the environment from those contractors 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. The College sent more detailed communications 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 an employee and you would like an evaluation, 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?

The College engaged a pre-construction asbestos survey prior to the initiation of the project. In the course of the renovation activities, the College had professionals in place

aware and equipped to address the possible discovery and/or disturbance of asbestos containing materials in the construction area. When a concern arose, testing was done inside the construction area of the NMC building, and the College evacuated the building. Since the evacuation, we received results from supplemental testing throughout the entire NMC building that indicate that the building does not have friable or airborne 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:

- Cleaning of entire building
- 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
- Conducting appropriate remediation or abatement activities
- Confirming proper protections are in place prior to re-initiating construction and/or occupation of the building

9). How long will the building be closed?

The estimated timeline is unclear at this time. The building will remain closed until testing and any necessary remediation or abatement is complete and safety has been fully confirmed. We will provide regular updates as more information becomes available.

10). 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

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

No. Testing has found no friable or airborne 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 this week found no airborne 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 and will confirm that proper protections are in place prior to occupation of 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 employ protective measures to minimize asbestos risk during construction, conduct air sampling, conduct appropriate remediation and abatement and ensure that those protective measures will continue to be in place when construction resumes. By combining industry established best practices, early detection, proper remediation or abatement, 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](mailto:nfjeldal@ivytech.edu) 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