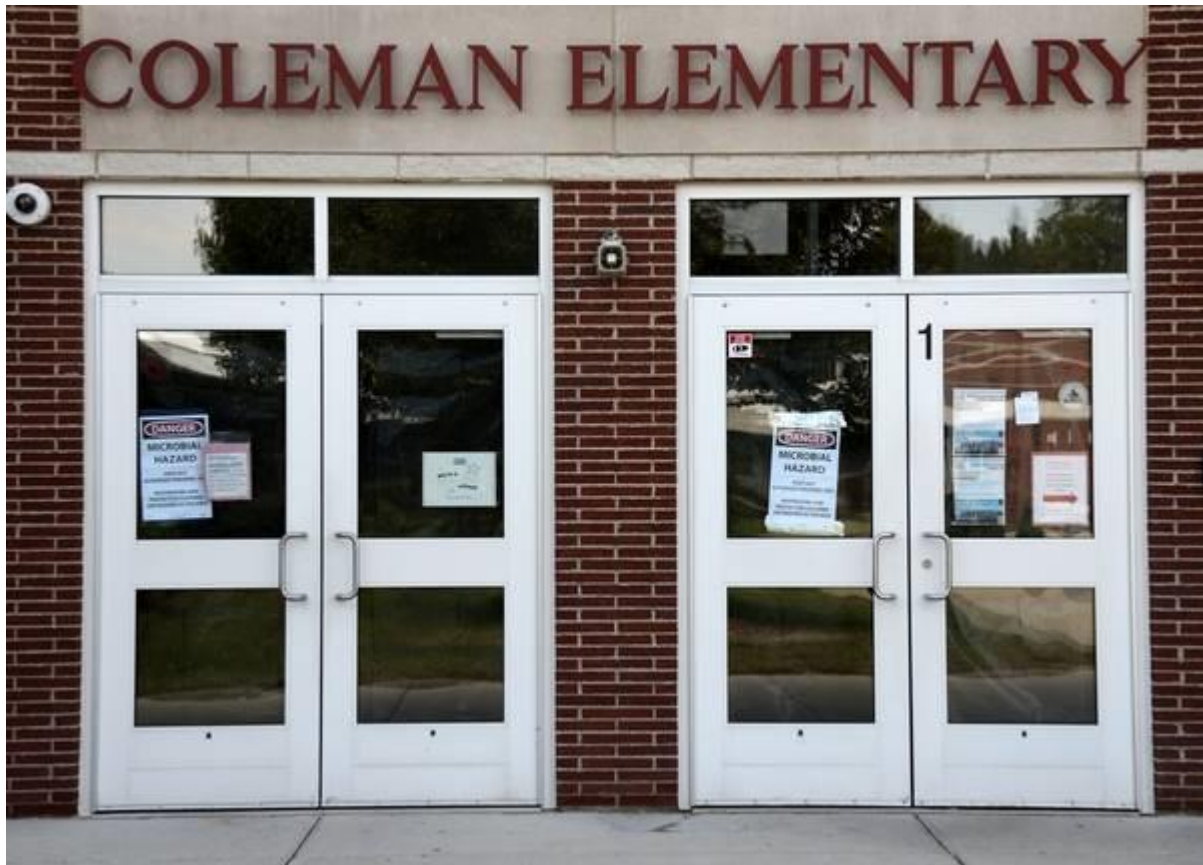


## Press Clippings 9/14/2018

---Daily Herald --- 9/14/18

### Elgin school closure due to mold continues through Monday

By Elena Ferrarin



**Coleman Elementary School in Elgin Area School District U-46 is closed through Monday after mold was found in classrooms and common areas.** *Rick West | Staff Photographer*

An Elgin elementary school will be closed through Monday after mold was found in classrooms and common areas, officials said.

Elgin Area School District U-46 officials announced Wednesday night they would close Coleman Elementary School on Thursday. Later Thursday, they said the closure would last through Monday. Parents and staff members will get an update Monday, Principal Brian Stark said in a statement.

"Our plant operations team needs this time to thoroughly remediate the mold and reduce the moisture levels in the building, then work with an environmental company to test the air quality and send testing samples to a lab for analysis," Stark said. "This process takes time and it is easier to clean, inspect and test a building when it is unoccupied."

All after-school activities, meetings and the before- and after-school care SAFE program also are canceled through Monday at the school, which has an enrollment of 720 students, officials said.

The building was tested and cleaned in early August as part of a routine inspection, officials said on the school's website.

On Tuesday night Stark "contacted plant operations with a report of the potential of mold. Plant operations confirmed the presence of mold on Wednesday. One classroom was closed and relocated to a computer lab during the school day. Further inspection after school on Wednesday confirmed the presence of mold in other classrooms and common areas, like hallways, in the older portion of the building."

The decision to close the building was made as a precaution, officials said.

Stark said he understands "that the unexpected cancellation of classes can pose a challenge for many of our Coleman families."

"I am disappointed Coleman students will miss out on instructional time. But the health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority, and while the risk of harm is low, we want to give our plant operations team the time to thoroughly take care of the issue."

District CEO Tony Sanders also had posted on Facebook asking for patience while the issue is resolved.

Coleman was built in 1954 and additions were built over the years, most recently in 2016.

Schools "are visually inspected for mold periodically and through routine inspections of plant operations staff," officials said.

**---The Courier-News --- 9/14/18**

**Mold found in Elgin school**

**Coleman Elementary will remain closed through Monday**

**By Rafael Guerrero The Courier-News**



The District U46 central offices in Elgin. Coleman Elementary School will be closed through at least Monday after mold was found in the school, district officials said. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News )

Coleman Elementary School in Elgin will remain closed through Monday as workers continue to clear mold found in classrooms and hallways.

A potential problem was discovered Tuesday night at the 1220 Dundee Ave. building and was confirmed Wednesday, prompting School District U46 officials to cancel Thursday classes. The need to extend the closure was announced Thursday afternoon.

“School district officials have informed me that Coleman Elementary will be closed through Monday, Sept. 17,” Principal Brian Stark said in a letter sent to families Thursday. “Our plant operations team needs this time to thoroughly remediate the mold and reduce the moisture levels in the building, then work with an environmental company to test the air quality and send testing samples to a lab for analysis. This process takes time, and it is easier to clean, inspect and test a building when it is unoccupied.”

A decision on whether Coleman can reopen Tuesday will be made Monday, Stark said.

Workers cleaned and inspected Coleman in early August as part of a routine procedure, according to information posted on the District U46 website. When possible mold was noticed, Stark contacted the district’s plant operations department Tuesday night, and the existence of mold was confirmed Wednesday, the update said.

One classroom was closed and its students relocated to a computer lab during the school day Wednesday. Further inspection Wednesday night found additional mold in several classrooms and in common areas, such as hallways, in the oldest portions of the school, the update said.

District spokeswoman Mary Fergus said staff inspects schools for mold on a periodic basis and upon notification of a concern. The warm and humid conditions of the past few weeks may be to blame, she said.

“While the risk of harm is low, the district’s plant operations department will need time to remediate this mold and reduce the moisture levels in the building,” officials said in a news release Wednesday night. “This action is being taken as a precaution; the health and safety of our students is our highest priority.”

Coleman Elementary, a school of more than 670 students, opened in 1954. Additions were built in 1966, 1998 and 2016, Fergus said.

All events, meetings and after-school activities at Coleman also have been canceled through Monday.

Mold can produce allergens, irritants and toxins that can affect a person’s health, depending on age, exposure, and allergic reactions or sensitivities, according to the Illinois Department of Health.

## **U46 eighth-graders explore career possibilities at expo**

**By Rafael Guerrero The Courier-News**





Elgin police Officer Randy Fries, left, assists Kenyon Woods Middle School student Eduardo Salgado in trying on police equipment. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News)

Amanda Jackson says she hopes to have a career in music one day, but that didn't stop the School District U46 student from checking out other job possibilities Wednesday at the Explore 2018 career expo.

The eighth-grader said stops at exhibitor booths for professions such as nursing were interesting and made her consider other options she hadn't thought of as job possibilities.

"Here you can find more opportunities in jobs (students) didn't know about — and some make good money too," said Amanda, a student at Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin.

About 3,000 District U46 eighth-graders filled the Sears Centre at Hoffman Estates to explore displays set up by 90 exhibitors, each of which had someone available to discuss the job opportunities in their professions. The event was part of District U46's plan to have students start thinking about career options at an earlier age.

"Businesses are interested in education," said Nancy Coleman, executive director of the Alignment Collaborative for Education, the Elgin-based nonprofit that worked with District U46 in setting up the event.

The expo was larger in practically every way than in years past. The venue shifted from Elgin Community College to the Sears Centre to better accommodate more students and booths.

Students and exhibitors were split between the arena's main floor and the concourses surrounding it. The number of exhibitors nearly doubled from the 50 or so that attended last year.

Students from all eight District U46 middle schools rotated from one station to the next; each group spent about one hour at the expo before heading back to their respective schools in Elgin, South Elgin, Bartlett or Streamwood.

"The possibilities are endless," said Gustavo Maldonado, a Kenyon Woods eighth-grader, speaking in response to the number of careers presented at Wednesday's event.

Among the businesses represented was Symonds-Madison Funeral Home in Elgin, which used the opportunity to discuss such things as mortuary science, the cremation process and the types of jobs available in its industry.



It's easy to not contemplate a career like funeral director if a student has no personal connection to it, said funeral director Daniel Symonds, a second-generation funeral service professional.

But there are definitely careers there, and events like Explore 2018 help teens be exposed to them, he said.

“This is the age when you should be thinking about what you want to be,” Symonds said.

Stacy Rausch, business and consumer information librarian at Gail Borden Public Library, agreed.

“Some kids will not know about certain careers unless they have family in it,” Rausch said.

The facility helped District U46 and the Alignment Collaborative for Education recruit a diverse lineup of businesses, agencies and organizations to participate in the expo.

The lineup included the Elgin fire and police departments, Elgin-based MKD Electric, Elgin Community College, and Xfinity, among others.

“We believe in finding and building the future” workforce, said Glenn Berg, director of human resources and safety at MKD Electric.

Efforts to expose students to career exploration at an earlier age is underway, Coleman said.

District U46 board members approved the adoption of the Naviance career and college readiness platform into the schools last school year.

The collaborative will work with the businesses, agencies and organizations it's partnered with to incorporate work-based education, such as job shadows, internships and apprenticeships, she said.



---NBC CHICAGO 5--- 9/13/18

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/coleman-elementary-school-elgin-mold-493132421.htm>

(VIDEO)

## Suburban Elementary School Closed Thursday After Crews Find Mold

Published at 5:26 AM CDT on Sep 13, 2018

A suburban elementary school will remain closed on Thursday after crews found mold in the building.

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Coleman Elementary School, located at 1220 Dundee Ave. in Elgin, will be closed for the entire day Thursday, District U-46 said in a [statement on its website](#).

The district had been working to remediate mold found in several classrooms, officials said, and crews discovered additional mold in common areas like hallways in the older portion of the building on Wednesday evening.

District officials said that while the risk to students was low, the school would remain closed as a health and safety precaution while crews work to remediate the mold and reduce moisture levels in the building.

All classes, as well as after-school activities and meetings on Thursday were canceled, the district said, and families and staff would receive an update Thursday as well.

**---ABC 7 EYEWITNESS NEWS--- 9/13/18**

<https://abc7chicago.com/health/elgin-elementary-school-closed-due-to-mold/4231278/>

**(Video)**

## **Elgin elementary school closed due to mold**

Coleman Elementary School in Elgin will be closed Thursday because of mold.

It had already been found in several classrooms and then Tuesday night, it was found in hallways.

"While the risk of harm is low, the District's Plant Operations department will need time to remediate this mold and reduce the moisture levels in the building. This action is being taken as a pre-caution; the health and safety of our students is our highest priority," the school said on its website.

All after-school activities, meetings, and the SAFE program are also canceled for Thursday at Coleman Elementary.



--- TELEMUNDO CHICAGO--- 9/13/18

<https://www.telemundochicago.com/noticias/destacados/Moho-y-humedad-obliga-cierre-de-una-escuela-en-Elgin--493171901.html>

(VIDEO)

## Moho y humedad obliga cierre de una escuela en Elgin

Coleman Elementary canceló toda su jornada mientras se realizan trabajos de remoción.



Una primaria en Elgin tuvo que cancelar clases y todas sus actividades el jueves luego de que inspectores hallaron grandes cantidades de **moho** en varias áreas del plantel.

El distrito escolar U-46 colgó en su página de internet un boletín anunciando que la escuela Coleman Elementary, en el 1220 Dundee Ave., permanecerá cerrada durante todo el día del jueves mientras realizan trabajos luego de que el miércoles se detectó moho en pasillos y otra áreas comunes del edificio.

El distrito dijo que ya habían estado trabajando para remediar problemas de moho y altos niveles de humedad en salones de clases y a pesar de que el riesgo para la salud de los estudiantes era mínimo, el cierre se hizo como medida de precaución.

Todas las clases, así como las actividades y reuniones después de la escuela fueron canceladas e indicaron que las familias y el personal recibirían una actualización sobre el asunto durante el día.

--- UNVISION CHICAGO--- 9/13/18

<https://www.univision.com/chicago/wgbo/noticias/contaminacion/una-escuela-en-illinois-cierra-temporalmente-por-el-hallazgo-de-moho-en-algunos-salones-y-pasillos-video>

(VIDEO)

## **Una escuela en Illinois cierra temporalmente por el hallazgo de moho en algunos salones y pasillos**

La institución educativa afectada es Coleman Elementary, ubicada en Elgin, la cual tiene cerca de 620 estudiantes de kínder a sexto grado. Las autoridades escolares esperan reanudar las clases el próximo martes 18 de septiembre, luego de realizar la limpieza correspondiente y tomar pruebas de la calidad del aire. Según funcionarios del Distrito Escolar U-46, ningún estudiante presentó problemas respiratorios por la presencia del hongo.