



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Environment, Health & Safety
1120 Estes Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-1650

November 16, 2018

Bruce Miles
N.C. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety & Health Division
Compliance Bureau
1101 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Re: OSH Complaints 209621416 and 209621408

Dear Mr. Miles:

I am writing in response to your October 31, 2018, letters to Dr. David Rubinow at the UNC School of Medicine. These letters were not received by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (“UNC-CH”) Environment, Health, and Safety (“EHS”) until late in the day on November 9, 2018. Your letters describe alleged health and/or safety hazards at the Medical Wing C, 334 Emergency Room Drive, Chapel Hill, NC establishment.

The University takes any potential hazard to the well-being of its employees very seriously. UNC-CH EHS, in conjunction with the School of Medicine Planning Office and UNC-CH Facilities Services, will take necessary measures to correct any concerns identified during the investigation of these complaints. Responses to all of the issues presented in the letters are provided below. If the complainants have more questions, they are welcome to contact our office at any time, and we will be glad to discuss these issues or other concerns in person.

Hazard Description

1. Mold-related health concerns in both letters 209621416 and 209621408

UNC-CH EHS conducted a walk-through inspection on November 12, 2018 to review the identified concerns on the 2nd and 3rd floors of Medical Wing C, as described in the complaints. EHS performed the inspection in accordance with the University’s Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) policy. The inspection included visual examinations of the window and central heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units servicing these floors, as well as any other potential mold sources. EHS provided observations to the School of Medicine Planning Office and UNC Facilities Services. Facilities Services provided EHS with an estimated completion date of January 15, 2019, to remediate the mold.

Per the University's Indoor Air Quality ("IAQ") Policy (https://ehs.unc.edu/files/2015/09/iaq_policy.pdf), employees with continuing IAQ complaints are encouraged to visit the University Employee Occupational Health Clinic (UEOHC) for evaluation. An email was prepared and distributed to building occupants as a reminder that the UEOHC is available for mold-related health concern evaluations.

2. Boards with exposed nails (letter 209621408)

UNC-CH EHS identified a discarded shelf with exposed nails stored in a stall in the Men's 3rd floor restroom. It is unclear why this debris was left in a restroom. Work order #1905931 was submitted on November 14, 2018, to remove shelf and is expected to be complete by end of day Friday, November 16th.

3. Sludge emerging from a rusted grate in the floor (letter 209621408)

UNC-CH EHS inspected all of the 2nd and 3rd floor restrooms and did not observe any sludge-like substance emerging from a floor grate. A building occupant indicated that there was an incident of a sludge-like substance emerging from a grate in the 3rd floor Women's restroom of UNC-CH Medical Wing D earlier this year. That particular issue was remedied. It is unclear if the reporter is referring to that incident.

4. Disused toilets and other items partially obstruct the restroom (letter 209621408)

UNC-CH EHS noted items inappropriately stored in the 2nd and 3rd floor Men's restrooms. Disused toilets were not observed during the inspection. Work order #19057933 was submitted on November 14, 2018, to remove items stored in the restrooms and is expected to be complete by end of day Friday, November 16th.

5. Items left in hallways obstructing emergency exit routes (letter 209621408)

EHS did not observe any items in the hallways obstructing the emergency exit route access. The reporter may be referring to non-obstructing trashcans. The UNC-CH Housekeeping Services provides trash collection once a week in campus buildings. Building occupants are instructed to leave their trashcans in the hallway if trash collection is required during the week. The trashcans are 11.5" x 8.25" x 12" and do not reduce the exit access below the required width of 28 inches.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



Mary Beth Koza, MBA

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