



Guidance When Addressing Asbestos Hazards and Seeking Reimbursement of Federal Funds

The Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU) is providing the following guidance to assist NC public schools and licensed child care facilities when an asbestos hazard has been identified through the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program.

Interim Controls

If an asbestos hazard has been identified by an NC-Accredited Asbestos Management Planner, the facility owner or responsible individual is required to restrict access to the area. The owner or responsible individual must ensure children are not at risk of coming into direct contact with the asbestos hazard until other measures are taken. When disturbing asbestos, minor repairs do require the use of OSHA asbestos trained individuals according to 29 CFR 1926.1101 Asbestos in Construction Standard, but do not require the use of an NC-Accredited Asbestos Abatement Supervisor. Keep in mind that these actions are not reimbursable.

Asbestos Abatement

The owner or responsible individual can also choose to address the identified asbestos hazard using an abatement method(s). It is important for the owner or responsible individual to understand what is required if asbestos abatement is performed. Asbestos abatement is when you intend to use any measure designed to permanently eliminate or control asbestos hazards. Abatement methods include removal, enclosure, encapsulation, repair and operation and maintenance (O&M).

REMOVAL means the taking out or the stripping of substantially all asbestos from a damaged area.

ENCLOSURE means an air-tight, impermeable, permanent barrier around asbestos to prevent the release of asbestos fibers.

ENCAPSULATION means the treatment of asbestos with a material that surrounds or embeds asbestos fibers in an adhesive matrix to prevent the release of asbestos fibers. Encapsulation products cannot be used on friction or impact surfaces. Paint is not an encapsulant.

REPAIR & MAINTAIN means returning damaged asbestos to an undamaged condition or to an intact state to prevent asbestos fiber release. It is recommended that an asbestos O&M program be written by an NC-Accredited Asbestos Management Planner. An O&M plan means a written program of work practices to maintain asbestos in good condition, ensure cleanup of asbestos fibers previously released, and prevent further release by minimizing asbestos disturbance. A written O&M plan is reimbursable.

Regardless of which asbestos abatement method is chosen the owner or responsible individual must use NC-Accredited Asbestos Abatement individuals and a final air clearance must be performed by an NC-Accredited Asbestos Air Monitor. An asbestos abatement permit is required to be submitted to the HHCU 10 working days before friable or regulated asbestos abatement activities begin. An ARPA notification is required 10 calendar days before any friable or nonfriable asbestos abatement activities begin.

[Asbestos Removal Permit DHHS 3768 9-16](#)

[NC ARPA Asbestos Notification](#)

To find NC Accredited Asbestos Abatement individuals or additional information visit the following web address at: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/asbestos/ahmp.html>

Reimbursement

If an asbestos hazard has been identified by an NC-Accredited Asbestos Manager Planner, then a public school or licensed child care facility may choose to use an abatement method. Moreover, asbestos abatement activities may be reimbursed using federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and the Health Hazards Control Unit is the agency responsible for administering the ARPA Reimbursement Program. Reimbursement may also include new replacement materials containing less than 1% asbestos documented by providing a safety data sheet or material specification. Keep in mind that replacement materials only include items associated with the asbestos hazard and not additional materials or other areas that are not associated with the identified asbestos-related work.

Public schools may receive up to 2/3 reimbursement for eligible expenses, and licensed child care facilities may receive up to 100 percent for eligible expenses. To seek reimbursement, a public school or licensed child care facility must first pay for all expenses and then apply through the ARPA Reimbursement Program. The funding for this reimbursement program is only available until December 31, 2026, or until funding is depleted.

To learn more about the ARPA Reimbursement Program visit the following web address:

[ARPA Asbestos and Lead-based Paint Reimbursement Program](#)

For specific questions email the ARPA Team at: ARPA-Reimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov

