

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



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October 5, 2001

Harold O. Levy
Chancellor
New York City Board of Education
110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Chancellor Levy:

I write to confirm our conversation in which I advised you that the Department of Health's assessment of the air quality in the vicinity of Stuyvesant high school is acceptable and safe to breathe.

As you know, there has been testing of air quality at several locations in the vicinity of Stuyvesant high school, including immediately outside of Stuyvesant and near the Chambers Street subway station. Air quality in this open zone area is at safe, acceptable levels for children. Due to the changing smoke conditions, however, some children who have underlying respiratory conditions, such as asthma, may experience exacerbation of symptoms; other persons may also experience short-term discomfort including irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat.

Air quality testing continues daily and results are being posted on a real time basis on the Environmental Protection Agency's website at epa.gov. Three weeks ago, when sophisticated testing protocols were not in place, the Department of Environmental Protection recommended that all buildings south of 14th Street use only re-circulated air. With test results showing acceptable levels, no such recommendation exists today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal L. Cohen".

Neal L. Cohen, M.D.