

I am writing to update you about construction taking place in the Medical Sciences Building, where you may have some classes. Crews are working in the building as part of a major upgrade to our labs, which in some areas requires the removal of asbestos (commonly found in buildings of this age).

During this work, we detected traces of asbestos in dust in five labs in the research tower, which were immediately closed, tested, cleaned and retested. These are isolated incidents that do not involve classrooms or common spaces. We are continuing to monitor the building with daily air tests, all of which have come back negative for asbestos.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring substance. It is only hazardous if it is airborne – and most hazardous if it is inhaled in high quantities over long periods of time. This is not the situation now at the Medical Sciences Building nor has it ever been at U of T.

We have prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions and more information also is available on this article posted on the university's news site: <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/testing-continues-faculty-medicine-prep-lab-retrofits-gets-underway>.

Kind regards,

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