

# Ohio school contaminated by PCBs is closed

CINCINNATI (AP) — Health officials have closed indefinitely Our Lady of Visitation Elementary School because classrooms contaminated with PCBs could be a health hazard and school officials disobeyed orders to close the affected rooms.

The Hamilton County Board of Health reported last week that a swipe test analysis showed PCB contamina-

tion of blackboards, desks and other surfaces in at least two classrooms.

Health Commissioner Harold Jacobs ordered that four classrooms and two storage rooms be closed for decontamination. He said Monday the school had not obeyed that order, and he ordered the entire school closed indefinitely.

Msgr. Henry Vogelpohl, assistant

pastor of Our Lady of Visitation Parish in suburban Green Township, said the school would remain closed until the board of health allows it to reopen.

PCB is a chemical formerly used in plastic insulation for electrical motors and wiring. It has been banned since 1977 because it is suspected of causing cancer and can cause respiratory problems and skin rashes.