Dear Parents and Guardians,

On February 12, 2016 the Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds, a multi-agency research was launched due to concerns raised by the public and Congress.

Due to a limited amount of research that did not address many health issues, and potential risks of exposure to the recycled tires on the fields and playgrounds, many people are doubting the safety of the fields.

As of today, Fairfax County has about 90 artificial-turf fields (crumb rubber fields) meaning that it is most likely that your son or daughter will be taking gym on one of these fields.

On August 2017 the (OMB) Office of Management and Budget approved a continuation of the study.

The external report is expected for this spring 2018.

These are some of the concerns that are being investigated. There are also concerns about the conditions that the fields can end up in, if not properly maintained and cared for.

To inform yourself about the research and what you can do if you have any personal concerns I am listing some valuable resources.

Thank you,

 Sonia Lewis

Active Parent.

<https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/federal-research-recycled-tire-crumb-used-playing-fields>

http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-epidemiology/public-health-toxicology/hot-topics/

 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/synthetic-turf-fields>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/30/sports/football/concussion-report-highlights-field-maintenance.html>

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/30/artificial-turf-cancer-rubber-tires_n_5412140.html>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/plandev/synthetic-turf-memo050316.pdf>

<http://www.bendbulletin.com/sports/3862136-151/study-poor-artificial-turf-upkeep-a-factor-in>

<http://cehn.org/crumb-rubber-artificial-turf/>