

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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GIHN Member Announcements

Please join me in welcoming our newest member.

Karen Raymer lives in Georgia. She has 20+ years in the interior design business and has incorporated the importance of good indoor air quality into her business. She is joining GIHN to connect with other people who have dealt with various indoor air exposures and wants to help spread the word.

Our membership is growing. We have members throughout the United States and in seven other countries, and we are communicating with people around the world.

CNN Story: Are Schools Making Kids Sick?

As a third-grader in Winsted, Connecticut, last year, Matthew Asselin was sick -- a lot. He was lethargic and plagued with a persistent wet cough, respiratory infections and painful headaches.

As the school year wound down, Matthew's health worsened. He was out for two weeks in the spring with pneumonia and then developed a sinus infection so severe he needed to spend the night at the hospital, where he received intravenous antibiotics and breathing treatments.

In all, Matthew missed 53 days of school. But over the summer, a strange thing happened. Matthew was healthy. He was energetic. He could ride his bike for hours at a time.

"When he was out of school, he was well. When he was in school, he became ill," Asselin said.

Figures are hard to come by, but studies have estimated that a third or more of U.S. schools have mold, dust and other indoor air problems serious enough to provoke respiratory issues like asthma in students and teachers.

A national survey of school nurses found that 40% knew children and staff adversely affected by indoor pollutants. Indoor air affects more than health. A growing body of research suggests students also perform better in schools with healthier air.

"If you get an unhealthy building, you're not going to have a successful school," said Lily Eskelsen, vice president of the National Education Association.

According to a survey of teachers in the nation's capital, two-thirds reported air quality at their schools of either fair or poor. More than half of Chicago teachers responding to the same survey also reported fair or poor school air quality.

[Are Schools Making Kids Sick?](#)

See *What's in the Air at Edgewater School* on page 2

What's in the Air at Edgewater School?

Sue Danielson never worried too much about her young son's asthma. That is, until he started at Edgewater Elementary School last year and his breathing troubles began to escalate, the nurse practitioner said. By the end of the school year, her kindergartner was taking enough medicine to treat a grown man.

He was able to go off the medication over the summer, but began having problems again this school year, Danielson said. "I felt stupid. Here I am a specialist and I couldn't figure out why my son was on so much medication," Danielson said. "It's his school."

She's among dozens of parents and teachers concerned about the air quality in certain classrooms at the school. For months, parents have gone to county school board meetings to plead for renovations.

Tests this fall detected high humidity, elevated carbon dioxide levels and large temperature fluctuations in the kindergarten and second-grade classrooms. High levels of volatile organic compounds also were found.

In a few of the classrooms, ventilation units that had been closed had to be reopened. But some parents remain worried. "What can't we see?" Corkhill said. "Elevated levels of carbon dioxide are a known cause of headaches, dizziness and drowsiness. Particulate matter is a known cause of respiratory illness."

The parents question whether the air-quality problem is part of a larger issue. **A 2010 nationwide survey of school nurses found that more than 40 percent said they knew children and staff adversely impacted by avoidable indoor pollutants**, and that there were no agencies to assist local schools with the problem.

"Parents and taxpayers should be enraged," said Amy Garcia, executive director of the National Association of School Nurses, in a statement. "Children continue to miss school because of illnesses triggered by indoor air pollutants. Attendance is strongly correlated with school success and graduation."

[What's in the Air at Edgewater School?](#)



American Lung Association: 2012 Report on the State of Tobacco Control

The American Lung Association's tenth annual [State of Tobacco Control](#) report chronicles a frustrating mix of progress and backsliding as it monitors progress on key tobacco control policies at the federal and state levels and assigns grades to assess whether laws are effectively protecting citizens from the terrible health burden caused by tobacco use.

State of Tobacco Control 2012 finds that over the past year, most states' efforts to protect children and curb tobacco-related disease have been, in a word, abysmal. The federal government fared significantly better by making major advances in 2011.

Tobacco use continues to reap a devastating toll. Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death as 443,000 people die each year from tobacco-related illnesses and secondhand smoke exposure. It also drains the economy of an enormous sum, more than \$193 billion annually, in healthcare costs and lost productivity.

In the 10 years since the first American Lung Association *State of Tobacco Control* report, we've seen great strides in protecting our children from tobacco and helping smokers quit. But declining trends over the last three years show that this hard-earned progress could be undone.

Youth and adult smoking rates declined slowly over the past decade, but the decline has been inconsistent and could stall. The tobacco industry is fighting back aggressively, in both legislatures and the courts. They are marketing new lines of smokeless tobacco products that encourage people to sustain their nicotine addiction, rather than quitting.

See *Wives Speak Out...About Mold* on page 3

Wives Speak Out About Navy's Claims About Mold

"An insult." "A slap in the face." This was just a taste of the outrage from Navy wives who were unhappy with a sarcastic statement from the Navy about the mold in their homes.

A Navy captain told the Pilot that WTKR is making it seem "like a science-fiction movie with mold monsters growing everywhere." Laurie Simmons spoke with 10 Navy wives who obviously did not agree with the Navy's claim.

NewsChannel 3 has been investigating mold in Lincoln Military Housing all over Hampton Roads. Because of our reporting, both Lincoln and the Navy have promised action and have begun testing some homes.

Yet, the Navy is saying things aren't that bad.

A group of Navy wives and moms got together to tell investigator Laurie Simmons just what they thought about that captain's quip.

"It is a public health concern when it's my health in jeopardy, my children's health in jeopardy," says Brandi Jones.

"If children are getting sick, people keep getting sick. How can you say it's a maintenance problem? It might have started out that way, but now it's graduated to a health concern," says Mary Johnson.

These Navy wives say they have never had any communication with the Navy Captain who made the claim, but they were not happy about his comment.

"It's a slap in the face. It's an insult, and quite frankly, I don't appreciate it," says Shelley Federico.

"For them to downplay everything my family's gone through, everything we face as far as health issues, referring to a science fiction movie is just ridiculous. They obviously haven't seen it for themselves," says Megan Sulligan.



Wives Speak Out About Navy's Claims About Mold (continued)

"If he would have been there when I was having to hold my one-month-old son having spinal taps. It's a mold monster because it is. My son has been sick since living in this house. He is four-months-old, there is no reason why this should be going on," says Latisha Mathers.

"I would like to invite Captain Don Hagan to my house for a few months. Let him live in my house. Let him get sick, and then they can put him up in a hotel for two months with two children and let me know if it's still a fabrication," says Jones.

Some officials have consistently claimed that there are no proven health effects from mold.

"When it is going to come to the point where this is an epidemic and we're going to do something about it?" asks Federico.

Several of the women stated that they did not agree at all with the claim the Navy made in the article about WTKR's reporting on the issue.

"You truly went out and fought for the story to find the cold hard facts. Now, whether they chose to see that or not is up to them, but the facts are the facts," says Jones.

[Wives Speak Out About Navy's Claims About Mold](#)

To read the Navy's Mold Remediation Guidelines:

[Navy's Mold Remediation Guidelines](#)

Member Profile: Sean Hardin

I am an independent investigative journalist. I live in Minneapolis. I focus on health, conspiracy, sexuality and other areas of public affairs. I also do movie reviews, and in my movie reviews, I try to break the hidden messages that are in a lot of Hollywood movies.

I have lived in Minnesota, Florida and Washington, D.C. and have traveled throughout the United States. I write articles and host a podcast series called Truther. (I will be changing the name of my podcast series in the near future.) I air my podcasts on Blip TV and Vimeo--look for Truther. When I am not busy working on a podcast, writing an article, or researching a subject, I do photography--professionally and for enjoyment. I have found the famous phrase "A picture speaks a thousand words." to be very true.

I am amazed at the public health issues that can be attributed to mold. There is a list of 300+ disease conditions that can be caused by mold. One thing I find inspiring as a journalist is the City of Zurich in Switzerland where they are building housing for people with mold and chemical sensitivities. It is too bad that all housing is not designed to be mold resistant because it is technically possible to design housing that way.

Dr. Adiel Teloren, Integrated medical practitioner in Minneapolis, is in the process of building an apartment complex that will be comprised of a plant material and will be geodesic shaped. It will be designed in a way to be mold resistant and free of chemicals. He is setting a great precedent. The apartment complex is going to be in Wisconsin, and I am looking forward to covering that story when the building is ready for occupancy.

Russia Today, one of my favorite media companies, has a slogan that goes "RT Question More." When I look at organizations like the Global Indoor Health Network and the group in Zurich who are building safe housing, I see positive signs that maybe civilization is starting to move in a better direction. Organizations like these are shining examples of people who do Question More and don't just go along with the status quo. I encourage everyone to always question more---never stop questioning.



Sean Hardin

Montreal School Board Allocates \$10 Million to Check Mould Levels

The Commission scolaire de Montréal sent a notice on Friday to its parents and employees clarifying its plans to check the air quality in its schools following the publication of what it called incorrect information.

A story in the Journal de Montréal said 50 CSDM schools had been targeted as the priority for air quality testing. The school board said no school appears on any list yet.

Mould and air quality problems have forced the evacuation of four CSDM schools this school year. The latest incident happened this week when students and staff from École St. Gérard in Villeray had to move out of their school. They probably won't be able to return to the building for 18 to 24 months.

The board plans to test air quality in its 227 schools - a time-consuming process that it says will take at least four years. The board told parents and staff that it plans to allocate \$10 million to check air quality, giving priority to schools where there has been water infiltration in the roof structure, masonry work or water in the basement. It also promised to do a thorough cleaning and remove dust from schools that need it.

With the \$10 million, the board will be able to tackle about 50 schools in the first year. The CSDM will have five teams that will work nights and weekends on its air quality program, said board spokesperson Alain Perron.

[Montreal School Board Allocates \\$10 Million to Check Mould Levels](#)

Leroy School Site Has History of Health, Water, Building Woes

Note to GIHN Members: If you know any families at this school, please tell them about GIHN and direct them to our website.

The school where 12 girls developed tics attributed to "conversion disorder" has a history of water and structural problems, and an outbreak of rashes and sores occurred among students playing sports on land where the school is now sitting, according to a student who went there.

"When we first started we couldn't go to gym class because the floor kept sinking and cracking," said the student, who attended the new LeRoy Junior/Senior High School in 2005, its first year of operation. She was one of several people who described the site as a "swamp."

One year, students had to start a week late because of flooding inside the building, she said.

Before the current school -- which goes from eighth to twelfth grades -- was built, the site was used for student playing fields; the school itself was at another location. The new building sits directly atop those playing fields.

On a Facebook site set up to support the students, one commenter wrote: "I read the environmental report and it seems like the testing wasn't very thorough. ... Correct me if I am wrong but wasn't the school partially underwater when it was first built? And how about soil testing. It seems like that would be included in thorough environmental testing? These girls deserve some answers. Praying for all of them and hoping we all get some answers soon."

Last week, I reported that except for checking a log of pesticide spraying, there is no evidence the consultants considered toxins in the schoolyard or on playing fields.

One press report says the total number of students affected has reached 16 and includes one boy.

[Tics and Toxins: Leroy School Site Has History of Health, Water, Building Woes](#)



Leroy Junior/Senior High School in New York

ASHRAE Announces Changes

Throughout its 117-year history, [ASHRAE](#) has been the go-to source in the HVAC&R industry for standards, education and other resources for engineers. As the role of HVAC&R has progressed to incorporate many facets of building design, construction and operation ASHRAE has changed as well. Today, ASHRAE is announcing an evolution of its brand to reflect those changes. Elements of the repositioning include a refreshed logo, a new tagline and a change to using only its acronym.

"ASHRAE's original commitment to HVAC&R engineering excellence remains resolute even as the Society continues to expand its influence into all facets of building design, construction, reconstruction and operation," ASHRAE President Ron Jarnagin said.

The repositioning of the ASHRAE brand evolution is an acknowledgment of ASHRAE's broadening scope beyond HVAC&R to include standards, research, publications and educational resources relating to total building design, energy efficiency efforts and sustainable building technologies, otherwise referred to as the total building environment, according to Jarnagin.

ASHRAE's new tagline is "Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today." The tagline serves as a promise to members and the industry that whatever the future brings in the built community, ASHRAE will be at the forefront for research and guidance.

[ASHRAE Evolves in Recognition of Role of Providing Total Building Guidance](#)

See *Lower Threshold for Lead Poisoning* on page 6

Federal Panel Urges Lower Threshold for Lead Poisoning

Ester Zaragoza tears up just thinking that the old, chipping paint on her home could have sickened her grandchildren with lead poisoning.

The children's mother, Priscilla Zaragoza, was stunned when city tests showed the family home had heavy lead contamination and her children were at risk.

"Right away we took them to the doctor," she said. Fortunately, blood tests revealed good news: lead levels were very low.

Now, a federal panel that advises the Centers for Disease Control found that lead in older homes harms children at lower levels than previously thought.

The panel is urging the CDC to lower the threshold for what blood levels can be considered lead poisoning. Instead of 10 micrograms per deciliter, 5 micrograms per deciliter would be the level to treat for lead poisoning.

If that happens, hundreds of thousands of children across the nation would be in line for a lead poisoning diagnosis. Like many older houses, Zaragoza's was painted before 1978, when lead was banned in house paint.

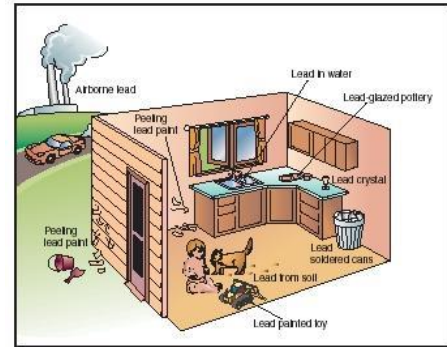
[Lower Lead Levels Considered Dangerous for Kids](#)

[CDC Panel Advises Lower Threshold for Toxic Lead Exposure in Children](#)

"The CDC recommends action at a blood lead level (BLL) of 10 µg/dL, but the **Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP)** now recommends that the reference value be lowered to 5 µg/dL (based on the 97.5th percentile of the BLL distribution in children aged 1 to 5 years) and reassessed periodically."

[Advisory Committee Recommends Revising Level of Lead in Blood Requiring Action](#)

[Next Newsletter: Friday, February 10, 2012](#)



Builder Agrees to \$2.4 Million Settlement

Shea Homes last week settled a class-action lawsuit brought by 850 homeowners in the company's Trilogy Development in Redmond Ridge, part of unincorporated King County just east of the Redmond Watershed Preserve.

Shea will pay \$2.4 million total to settle claims that poor construction caused mold problems at more than half the homes in the Trilogy development.

The homeowners' suit claimed that Shea "failed ... by not properly cleaning and priming the wood on the eaves and soffits ... before applying the first coat of paint. And, by using damp, wet, contaminated or unfit wood."

Retired doctor Peter Wasserman paid \$650,000 for his new Trilogy home in 2005. Mold "started to show up two to three years after the house was constructed," he said. Another Trilogy owner, Loren Lewis, bought his home five years ago for \$600,000. Within a few years, mold started growing under the roof.

[Builder Agrees to \\$2.4 Million Settlement](#)

Quick Links:

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Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments