

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS
IN OUR HOMES, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES



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Mold Problem on Local Military Bases Has Implications Across San Antonio

The mold problem threatening the health of hundreds of servicemen in dorms at Lackland and other military installations is being called an epidemic by one local neurologist who questions how the military is removing the fungus.

Dr. Suzanne Gazda says mold is a problem for both military personnel - 200 of which have already been removed from mold-infested quarters - and the civilian population.

"Mold is a silent epidemic of the 21st century," Gazda says.

She has first-hand knowledge of the danger mold can do to the immune system.

"I've lived in two moldy homes in Texas. The last home, my daughter got a fungal pneumonia," Gazda says. "And it was a brand-new home."

The military is fighting mold in dorms in a number of older buildings.

In a statement, Lt. Gen Brad Wells says: "Professionals from 502nd Civil Engineer Group are treating rooms with a regimen that includes a bleaching process as well as utilizing dehumidifiers, removing and replacing carpet with vinyl planks, and installing ceiling fans.

Gazda, a neurologist with 30 years of experience in San Antonio, takes exception with some of those tactics.

"You cannot destroy mold with bleach. You just can't," she says.

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See *Military bases in San Antonio* on page 2

Glyphosate herbicides are now banned or restricted in 19 countries worldwide -- Malawi, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Bermuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Italy and The Netherlands. [Read the article.](#)

Mold Problem on Local Military Bases Has Implications Across San Antonio

Continued from page 1...

"You can't just replace carpet. You can't just replace floorboards. You can't just paint over it. Otherwise we continue to threaten the health of anyone living in that environment."

She also questions the heating and air conditioning systems at the military installations.

"Those HVAC systems at Lackland, they are all contaminated too," she says.

Lackland will be open to the media on Thursday for an inspection of dorms where mold has been found. More information will be provided about what is being done to remediate the situation at facilities across San Antonio, including Camp Bullis.

Initial concerns first surfaced with a recent Facebook post which showed mold on uniforms, pillows, bed frames and ceilings.

Attempting to clarify the situation Wednesday, the 502nd Joint Base San Antonio Public Affairs Office issued this statement:

"The 502nd Air Base Wing is conducting inspection of dorms across JBSA to include Camp Bullis. JBSA has the largest dormitory program in the Air Force with 77 dorms and a bed space capacity of 27,000. The health and safety of our residents is always a top priority and we continue to advocate for the improvement of dormitories across JBSA.

"Continuing mold issues can be raised to all levels of leadership. If complaints are not satisfactorily addressed, residents have a direct line to Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, 502nd Air Base Wing commander, through the "Feedback Fridays" program. Questions and concerns can be sent to RandolphPublicAffairs@us.af.mil using the subject line, "Feedback Fridays."

For non-military members concerned about mold in their own homes? Gazda recommends house inspections by professionals every six months.

Dr. Suzanne Gazda says mold is a problem for both military personnel - 200 of which have already been removed from mold-infested quarters - and the civilian population.

"Mold is a silent epidemic of the 21st century," Gazda says.

"Mold in our home, with WIFI and electricity, becomes 400 times more aggressive."

Mold Problem on Local Military Bases Has Implications Across San Antonio (cont'd)

Noting the hot and humid conditions across Texas, she notes: "The statistics are across the United States, it's 50 percent of buildings (with mold) in Texas. In San Antonio, I bet it's much higher than that."

Mold problems have gotten progressively worse in recent years, due to a variety of factors.

"We've started using fungicide in paint. It worked and destroyed less aggressive molds. But it allowed more aggressive molds - the top five - to have a party," she says, citing near universal air conditioning in more energy efficient houses. Also contributing is electromagnetic frequency, causing mold "to think it's being attacked."

Mold can cause people to have vague symptoms, ranging from headaches, difficulty with memory, brain fog, numbness or pain. It is toxic to about 30 percent of the population.

"They may not have obvious symptoms but there may be smoldering symptoms related to brain dysfunction that could get worse over time," she says.

"Mold in our home, with WIFI and electricity, becomes 400 times more aggressive."

To read the article, click [here](#).

Fort Bragg Family Hospitalized with Carbon Monoxide Poisoning; 88 Homes Affected (North Carolina)

Fort Bragg officials have worked to identify the source of carbon monoxide in on-post housing after a family was taken to Womack Army Medical Center earlier this month, officials said Wednesday.

In a news release, officials said a Fort Bragg family living in a Pope Army Airfield neighborhood went to the installation's medical center Aug. 4 with symptoms that corresponded with carbon monoxide poisoning.

Officials said the family was checked out and released from care the same day, and that Fort Bragg's Directorate of Emergency Services, Department of Public Works and housing partner Corvias immediately went to the home to identify the cause.

On Aug. 7, another family living in the same Pope neighborhood filled out an online report to let officials know they had a petroleum odor in their home, officials said.

After investigating the matter, another 86 homes were identified as having a potential carbon monoxide risk, said Col. Phillip Sounia, Fort Bragg's garrison commander.

"The health and safety of our service members and their families is, and always will be, a top priority for Fort Bragg leadership," Sounia said. "When they are at risk, it affects the readiness and resiliency of all involved."

Officials said phone calls and emails were sent to the 86 families followed by face-to-face warnings as the residents of the other two homes worked with officials to determine a cause for the suspected carbon monoxide.

Officials said the source was caused by the heating ventilation and air conditioning unit installed in the laundry room with the water heater, with both appliances using gas.

To read the article, click [here](#).



Navy Family Moves Into RV, Files Lawsuit after Mold Exposure at Tinker AFB (Oklahoma)

Some of our country's finest at Tinker Air Force Base say they have been forced to live in unsanitary conditions. Mold, flooding and asbestos are among the problems many families say they have faced.

Rachel Cole and her family transferred to Tinker Air Force Base from Virginia Beach in 2017. Cole said there were holes in the walls and carpet, mold, and paintball paint "everywhere."

"Within about three weeks of us living there, the whole house flooded on the first floor," said Cole.

The family said they contacted maintenance several times and very little if anything was ever done.

"That whole upper area of the HVAC unit was full of mold and a light just went off," said Cole. "Oh my gosh, this is what has been making us sick, we are breathing in mold."

Cole said her husband suffered from gastrointestinal issues and her oldest daughter developed anxiety. Her oldest son had a constant runny nose and would throw up at random. Cole said she herself developed anxiety, which later grew into depression, and she eventually became suicidal.

Tinker officials said they have discovered a total of 243 health and safety issues in nearly 200 homes. To read the article, click [here](#).

Social Media Helped Show Severity of Mold at Joint Base San Antonio–Lackland

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland became the focus of national media attention in late July after a Facebook page, [amn/nco/snco](#), shared photos of rampant mold growth in its technical training dormitories.

The images showed blooms of mold on a pillow, as well as patches on shoes, bedding, uniform items and walls.

The resulting firestorm of criticism prompted the 502d Air Base Wing, responsible for logistics at JBSA, to launch an inspection of all 77 dormitory buildings on base. Approximately 1,300 rooms total had some presence of mold, with nearly 1,200 at Lackland. Some 500 individuals across JBSA were temporarily relocated.

Workers from the 502d Civil Engineering Group tried to remediate the mold by putting up ceiling fans, ripping up carpet and installing vinyl planks in its place. Bleach and bio-agents were also used to inhibit further growth.

Brig. Gen. Laura Lenderman, commander of the 502d Air Base Wing, said mold has long been a problem in the dorms — due to factors like heat, humidity and aging infrastructure — and was the target of ongoing maintenance efforts.

“What we didn't know was the extent of the problem. It's that social media blast that allowed us to understand the extent,” said Lenderman.

She pointed out that a dorm and campus improvement plan was in the works before photos of the mold were posted online. But she admits that social media helped speed up the process.

The military has long struggled to manage complaints about mold. In February, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a series of hearings that exposed problems that families were facing with mold in private housing on bases across the country. Lawmakers took military leadership to task over their lack of responsiveness — and passed a defense budget which includes certain housing protections.



Social Media Helped Show Severity of Mold at Joint Base San Antonio–Lackland (cont'd)

Kelly Hruska of National Military Family Association said that, although the majority of those hearings focused on private housing, a bigger picture emerged.

“In bits and pieces, you would hear that privatized housing was just the tip of the iceberg. And that when you looked at some of the barracks, and you looked at some of the older work buildings, that they were facing similar problems with mold,” said Hruska.

She added the photos of widespread mold at Lackland have helped to spotlight the problem, and that the use of social media is telling.

“The fact that they were posting the pictures on Facebook tells me that there may have been a breakdown in the reporting,” Hruska said. “I will say that a lot of the focus has been on the housing. So, this tells us that we need to expand some of these protections, and to make sure that it includes all installation facilities.”

In the weeks since Lackland's mold problem exploded on social media, base leaders have used some of the same tools to respond. They've documented their cleanup efforts across Twitter and Facebook, and created a [mold remediation website](#) to keep service members and the public updated.

To read the article, click [here](#).

...continued in next column

See *Toxic fumes on planes* on page 5

Toxic Fumes on Planes and A New Push for Safety Changes

Tammi Fitzgerald takes a breathing treatment with a nebulizer every day.

She claims severe asthma is one of many medical conditions she lives with, and she blames the two decades she spent as a flight attendant.

"I'd be sick for days when I came off the plane," Fitzgerald said. "It really affected my career."

Fitzgerald claims on several flights, she was exposed to what's known as "bleed air."

On some aircraft, air used to pressurize the cabin is bled off from the engine compressor.

In some situations, like a broken seal, oil can leak into the engine, meaning that air going into the cabin could be toxic.

"You're taking a risk, and it is not acceptable," Fitzgerald said. "This doesn't just happen at American; it happens all over the world."

She always took a mask on board.

The Association of Flight Attendants is pushing for safety changes, and so are pilots.

The Pilots Union at American Airlines started documenting "smoke, odor, fumes" incidents.

The Union officials call it their "skunks of the month" report.

Their July report shows 58 incidents on American Airlines planes; however, it's not clear how many are blamed on bleed air.

"We're dealing usually with contaminants that are invisible in the air," Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said.

He introduced the Cabin Air Safety Act in Washington, D.C., in April because he said incidents are undetected, untracked and unreported.



Toxic Fumes on Planes and A New Push for Safety Changes (cont'd)

"This legislation would require reporting and investigation of any incidents of contaminants," Blumenthal said.

American Airlines would not comment on Fitzgerald's claims or the federal legislation.

There is now a companion bill to the Cabin Air Safety Act in the U.S. House.

Blumenthal told Channel 9 this issue is gaining momentum and he hopes the House and Senate will hold hearings.

Researchers at the University of Washington are also working to develop a blood test that could detect bleed air exposure.

To read the article, click [here](#).

British Airways Flight Makes Emergency Landing After Smoke Engulfs Cabin

Tourists are seen using the evacuation slide on the runway at Valencia, Spain, in a video shared online.

The report was published as it emerged the number of people who needed treatment after the scare had risen to nearly 20.

To read the article, click [here](#).

See *Appeals Court ruling against 5G* on page 6

Appeals Court Rules 5G Cell Sites Can't Skip Environmental and Historical Review

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has encountered another roadblock in its effort to speed the rollout of 5G wireless service.

A federal court has ruled that the agency overstepped its bounds when it tried to exempt 5G cell sites from environmental impact and historic preservation reviews.

The FCC is concerned that the U.S. could fall behind in the deployment of the latest generation of wireless service and has been trying to aid providers in dealing with regulatory hurdles. But a U.S. appeals court ruled that cell sites using the new technology still must comply with existing regulations.

"We grant in part the petitions for review because the Order does not justify the Commission's determination that it was not in the public interest to require review of small cell deployments," the court ruled. "In particular, the Commission failed to justify its confidence that small cell deployments pose little to no cognizable religious, cultural, or environmental risk, particularly given the vast number of proposed deployments and the reality that the Order will principally affect small cells that require new construction."

In 2018, the FCC adopted an order that exempted most small cell construction from required reviews. The reviews had to do with historic preservation -- making sure the cell deployments didn't encroach on or diminish historically or culturally important sites.

The agency justified its action claiming it was necessary to speed up the deployment of 5G networks, which are significantly faster than current 4G LTE networks. The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, the Blackfeet Tribe, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) sued, seeking to block the action.



Appeals Court Rules 5G Cell Sites Can't Skip Environmental and Historical Review (cont'd)

In the end, the judges ruled that the FCC's action "does not justify the Commission's determination that it was not in the public interest to require review of small cell deployments."

The court said the FCC did not justify its contention that small cell 5G deployments pose little to no cognizable religious, cultural, or environmental risk.

The justices also said the agency did not "adequately address possible harms of deregulation and benefits of environmental and historic-preservation review."

The court concluded that the FCC's deregulation of small cell deployments was "arbitrary and capricious."

To read the article, click [here](#).

International Actions to Halt and Delay 5G. The growing awareness of the health impact of the 4G/5G densification is resulting in action by policymakers worldwide. Click [here](#).

Bangladesh High Court bans installation of mobile or telecommunication towers on rooftops of residential areas, educational institutions, hospitals, jail premises, heritage sites, playgrounds & places of worship. Click [here](#).

Townsville Flood Aftermath: Resident's Relentless Mould Battle Six Months After Monsoon Event

Six months after Townsville's massive flood event, life is still a long way from normal for some residents.

Key points:

- Some Townsville residents are still waiting to get back into their homes after unprecedented flooding in February
- Cleaning companies are heavily booked and one cleaner says the mould is the "worst" he has ever seen
- A mycologist says the mould is "extreme" and "doubles every day" if it's not removed

In addition to insurance and construction negotiations, many residents are still battling to get on top of the mould the monsoon left behind.

For Cassandra Smith, the weather event has meant moving house 26 times, several hospital admissions and mould growing in her lungs.

"I ended up in hospital within six weeks with an IV line directly into my heart with the mould having taken hold of my lungs and ... through my entire blood system," Ms. Smith said.

Ms. Smith, who has an autoimmune condition, developed aspergillosis — a fungal infection of the lungs caused by mould.

A few days after the floodwaters receded, the Smith family was advised it was safe to move back into their Idalia home.

Ms. Smith said as their house was not muddy, they were told to dry it out using their air conditioners and industrial fan — a move that she believed spread mould spores around the house.

"I had the inkling that it wasn't safe and that I shouldn't stay there ... I was concerned that they didn't check the walls or anything for moisture and there was a pretty bad smell," she said.



Townsville Flood Aftermath: Resident's Relentless Mould Battle Six Months After Monsoon Event (cont'd)

"I am really upset with myself for not listening to my own gut instead of listening to someone that I thought was an expert on flood response and protocols."

Mr. Anderson, who has been working seven days a week since February, said six months after the flood event there were still "really bad" houses left to treat.

He said tradesmen have been working to get people back into their homes quickly, however he said it was not wise to have residents prematurely return to flood-impacted homes.

"They will just get in and start ripping it apart which is bad because they are spreading the spores and breathing it in."

The Townsville Public Health Unit is compiling an assessment on the health impacts of the floods. The service reported 21 cases of melioidosis following the floods, six cases of leptospirosis infection and an increase in gastroenteritis and cryptosporidium attributable to the event.

Perth-Based mycologist Heike Neumeister-Kemp, works for environmental consultancy laboratory Mycolab and has 30 years' experience in the industry. She said she had never seen mould as "extreme" as what she has observed in Townsville.

To read the article, click [here](#).

The Grim State of Military Housing in Hawaii

Dead rats. Bathrooms spewing sewage. Cockroaches. Toxic mold. Broken appliances.

Military families in Hawaii are increasingly upset about what they describe as filthy, contaminated and unsanitary living conditions in on-base housing, and they are starting to raise a stink about it.

Federal officials, meanwhile, are beginning to take note of the seriousness of the problems.

About 650 military families in Hawaii responded this year to the first independent, national survey of on-base living conditions, with the majority ranking their experiences negative or very negative. Some said they got sick or developed long-term illnesses while residing on base, or lived in fear of becoming ill, as the private landlords who control the properties dragged their feet on necessary repairs.

The largest number of negative reports were lodged against the biggest bases here, including Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe and Schofield Barracks.

Some 17,000 military families nationwide participated, with many providing grim reports about bad conditions at bases throughout the country. An initial report was released in February and the complete review of the data was released in May.

The situation has been described as intolerable at congressional briefings in Washington, in a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee in February and before a House Armed Services subcommittee in April.

"We have a real problem here and everybody needs to acknowledge that reality," said U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island, who is a ranking member on the committee.

The survey responses from Hawaii, which were restricted to people who live in the housing now or have lived there within the past three years, were consistent with the worst reports nationwide.

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In the past, military housing was operated by the Department of Defense. But in 1996, with little public discussion, the federal government turned over management of more than 200,000 units to private companies, giving them 50-year leases on the properties.

The Grim State of Military Housing in Hawaii (cont'd)

"The Hawaii data that was collected is quite disturbing," said Crystal Cornwall, a military wife active in a group effort known as the Safe Military Housing Initiative, who reviewed the data and testified about it at a recent hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The reports also mirror information being shared by military families on social media sites here in the islands.

In recent media postings at a private Facebook page frequented by Hickam families, for example, people have reported lengthy water shut-offs, finding maggot-infested dead rats in their homes, and flooding complaints that went unanswered for days. Some discussed their plans to move off base to escape the health risks they were encountering.

In the past, military housing was operated by the Department of Defense. But in 1996, with little public discussion, the federal government turned over management of more than 200,000 units to private companies, giving them 50-year leases on the properties.

A lot of housing had been built hastily following World War II and was in poor repair, and the federal government was looking for an inexpensive way to solve the problem.

To read the article, click [here](#).

\$12 Million Mold Removal Project Set to Start on Aberdeen Federal Building (Mississippi)

Renovations will soon be underway for the Thomas G. Abernethy Federal Building in Aberdeen and the home to the U.S. District Court of Northern Mississippi hopes to reopen for proceedings in early 2021.

The new construction, expected to start in late summer, comes after the federal courthouse was forced to relocate proceedings in 2017 due to mold issues “from decades of deferred maintenance by the General Services Administration,” a court press release said.

Complaints about mold in the building date back to 1992 and court employees had reported symptoms consistent with mold exposure – like headaches, dizziness, asthma, respiratory issues and severe allergy symptoms – prior to the relocation, the court said in a news release earlier this month.

The administrative office of court approved funding for a private engineer to renovate the building in January, according to the Monroe Journal. The federal government has allocated \$12 Million towards the renovation, which is expected to be completed in late fall of 2020.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is partnering with the U.S. District Court to upgrade the courthouse.

“The project will improve indoor air quality and upgrade the building’s aging infrastructure by replacing HVAC systems and controls, performing lighting upgrades and electrical systems improvements, and mitigating water and air infiltration through strengthening the building envelope.”

Several other changes are being made as a part of energy conservation projects such as “replacement of lighting fixtures with LED fixtures, replacement of electrical transformers, installation of state-of-the-art controls systems, and upgrades to original electrical system components,” the court said in its release.

To read the article, click [here](#).

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Babies Born Near Oil and Gas Wells Are 40 to 70% More Likely to Have Congenital Heart Defects

Proximity to oil and gas sites makes pregnant mothers up to 70 percent more likely to give birth to a baby with congenital heart defects, according to a new study.

Led by Dr. Lisa McKenzie at the University of Colorado, researchers found that the chemicals released from oil and gas wells can have serious and potentially fatal effects on babies born to mothers who live within a mile of an active well site — as about 17 million Americans do.

The researchers studied more than 3,000 newborns who were born in Colorado between 2005 and 2011. The state is home to about 60,000 fracking sites, according to the grassroots group Colorado Rising. In areas with the highest intensity of oil and gas extraction activity, mothers were 40 to 70 percent more likely to give birth to babies with congenital heart defects (CHDs).

“We observed more children were being born with a congenital heart defect in areas with the highest intensity of oil and gas well activity,” said McKenzie in a statement.

Biologist Sandra Steingraber was among the experts on the dangers of fossil fuel extraction who pointed to the study as the latest evidence that allowing oil and gas wells to operate, especially near communities, is a public health hazard.

To read the article, click [here](#).

Bushwick Tenants Take Landlord to Court, Alleging Hazardous Mold

Rodents, water leaks, mold and ongoing electrical issues are just some of the conditions caused by a Bushwick landlord's negligence, according to papers tenants filed in Brooklyn Housing Court as part of a request for a court-appointed building administrator.

Three tenants living at 149 Irving Ave., aided by TakeRoot Justice, filed the papers on Wednesday against their landlord, INK 1549 Dekalb LLC, accusing them of purposely allowing their building to fall into disrepair.

The residents claim that the problems began more than two years ago, when the building first switched ownership.

The building has six units, three of which have been unoccupied and are allegedly the cause of the building's current state — all are padlocked and allegedly suffering from serious infrastructure issues.

"Today we have filed paperwork in court ... because the landlord has failed in its duty to take care of this building. There are three empty units that are padlocked and we are terrified about what's behind all those doors. We have seen behind one door and the conditions are terrible — there is mold. We are very concerned that the tenants' health and safety is being endangered by this level of mold," said Linden Miller, staff attorney at TakeRoot Justice, at the rally.

The filing requests that the court appoint an administrator as part of the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development's 7A Management Program within the Housing Quality Enforcement Program. Targeting extremely distressed or at-risk privately-owned residential buildings, court-appointed administrators take over rent collection responsibilities and use the revenue to make repairs and provide services.

INK Property Development made it on to a list by Stabilizing NYC, a housing advocacy group, of "Worst Landlords" for its neglect and harassment tactics against rent-stabilized tenants.

To read the article, click [here](#).

Researchers at UC San Diego published a study Tuesday establishing a link between the weed killer Roundup and severe cases of liver disease in humans.



"There have been a handful of studies, all of which we cited in our paper, where animals either were or weren't fed Roundup or glyphosate directly, and they all point to the same thing: the development of liver pathology,"

UCSD Researchers Link Herbicide Roundup to Liver Disease in Humans

Researchers at UC San Diego published a study Tuesday establishing a link between the weed killer Roundup and severe cases of liver disease in humans.

The researchers studied the amount of glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup, in the urine samples of two groups of people: one with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and one without. The study found that glyphosate residue was higher in the urine of subjects with liver disease regardless of possible underlying factors such as age, body mass index or race.

"There have been a handful of studies, all of which we cited in our paper, where animals either were or weren't fed Roundup or glyphosate directly, and they all point to the same thing: the development of liver pathology," said UCSD professor and study leader Paul Mills. "So, I naturally thought: Well, could it be exposure to this same herbicide that is driving liver disease in the U.S.?"

Roundup, manufactured by Monsanto, a subsidiary of the German chemical company Bayer, has rapidly increased in use since the mid-1990s. During that same period, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease cases in the United States have also risen significantly, according to the UCSD researchers.

To read the article, click [here](#).

See *Remedial work begins in Dublin* on page 11

Remedial Work Begins on 'Poor Quality' Council Homes with Mould Issues in South Dublin (Ireland)

Remedial work has begun on council homes in the Balgaddy area of south Dublin more than two years after a European committee upheld a complaint against Ireland about the country's social housing standards.

The collective complaint by 20 communities, including residents of the Balgaddy homes, was made in May 2015.

Two years ago, The European Committee for Social Rights in Strasbourg upheld the complaint, stating the Irish government had failed to take "sufficient and timely measure to ensure the right to housing of an adequate standard for a not insignificant number of families living in local authority housing".

Back in 2015, after the initial complaint was made, TheJournal.ie visited some of the residents of the development. Families described issues with damp and mould, leaks, poor ventilation and structural problems.

One woman whose son had severe asthma and Kawasaki's disease, an autoimmune disease, showed us a letter his doctor wrote for her to give to the council.

In it, he said he was "in no doubt" that the mould in the boy's bedroom was contributing to his asthma and said he strongly supported the mother's application for a change of accommodation.

Another woman spoke of her horror when she noticed a dip in her staircase and discovered the planks underneath the carpet had started to rot.

"I'm terrified. I'm panicked about it. I can't sleep at night worrying about it. I feel very unsafe in my own home," she said at the time.

As far back as 2011, South Dublin County Council was involved in a dispute with the builders, demanding money to cover costs of resolving the many issues in the estates.

The council has now said it will provide funding for specific works in Balgaddy to address heating, ventilation and insulation issues, and roof and guttering works.

"While the silence of convenience continues, many local authority tenants are living in appalling housing conditions, enduring damp, mould, sewerage, pest infestation, cold and overcrowding. For too many, their housing is making them sick."

Remedial Work Begins on 'Poor Quality' Council Homes with Mould Issues in South Dublin (Ireland) (cont'd)

Aiden Lloyd, chair of the Rights Platform in South Dublin told TheJournal.ie that some remedial works have recently begun in Balgaddy.

"They are addressing the problems with mould and leaks, and with crumbling plasterwork, things like that. They have said where it's necessary they'll move people out for a time, if significant reconstruction has to take place."

He said the local residents have welcomed the fact that the council has committed to some infrastructure in the area, including the construction of a new play area, communal open spaces and additional CCTV and street lighting.

In a survey by the Community Action Network last year across 13 local authority housing estates, 76% of respondents reported mould growth in their homes and 70% said their homes were cold and hard to heat. Over one in five said a doctor had told them their health was adversely affected by their housing conditions.

Cecilia Forrestal, human rights coordinator with CAN said the attitude of local authorities in relation to damp and mould damage in tenant's homes is "unreasonable" as the general policy is that this is the responsibility of the tenant.

"While the silence of convenience continues, many local authority tenants are living in appalling housing conditions, enduring damp, mould, sewerage, pest infestation, cold and overcrowding. For too many, their housing is making them sick."

To read the article, click [here](#).

Investigation Reveals Years of Mold Issues at 30+ Atlanta Public Schools

Former Atlanta Public School teacher Jeremy Johnson taught in dozens of classrooms throughout his decadelong career. He spent four years at Young Middle School, where he said he switched classrooms several times -- all because of mold.

"There was just mold (on the) ceilings, chairs, desks and it was horrible," Johnson said. "It was to the point where I couldn't teach, and kids certainly couldn't come in that classroom until something was done about it."

Channel 2 Action News filed an Open Records Request with Atlanta Public Schools asking for emails mentioning mold for the last five years, and cleanup efforts at Young MS. From that request, we got back hundreds of pages of documents, including air quality complaints from more than 30 other Atlanta public schools.

In 2014, the principal of Kimberly Elementary told administrators he was running out of excuses to explain the school's musty smell, a byproduct of mold. That same year, a Cascade Elementary teacher emailed APS saying that the air quality made her sick, citing moldy papers on her desk as evidence.

At Young Middle School, the spore count near the boys' locker room in July 2017 caused air quality expert Richard Johnson particular concern.

"This would be enough that anybody that was sensitive to allergies, particularly with respect to mold, would have a concern about it," Richard Johnson said.

APS spokesperson Ian Smith denied that the schools' air quality should cause any worry.

"We would never allow any students or staff into a room or a space if we didn't believe it was safe," Smith said.

Smith said that APS remediates mold complaints and retests air quality immediately following any complaints.

"There was just mold on the ceilings, chairs, desks and it was horrible," Johnson said. "It was to the point where I couldn't teach, and kids certainly couldn't come in that classroom until something was done about it."

Investigation Reveals Years of Mold Issues at 30+ Atlanta Public Schools (cont'd)

The district spent more than \$52 million SPLOST dollars in HVAC upgrades since 2012, according to Smith. Over the next three years, they're slated to spend an additional \$15 million in upgrades to seven more schools.

Young Middle School saw mold complaints and subsequent remediation in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Repetitive long-term exposure to mold increases health risks, according to Dr. Lauren Middlebrooks of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She told Channel 2 Action News that repeated exposure can especially affect children.

Jeremy Johnson recalls that the mold would intensify over summer break, left to incubate in the humidity of the empty school building.

As the new school year approaches, he believes that the mold remains an issue.

"I think parents should be concerned, and I think the school system should be concerned, and I definitely think teachers should also be concerned," he said.

To read the article, click [here](#).

Leaks, Mould and Power Cuts Prompt Residents of UAE Tower to Move Out (UAE)

Residents of a community in Ajman say years of mould, leaky pipes and power cuts have forced them to leave behind their flats and seek accommodation elsewhere.

Tenants and flat-owners in Paradise Lake Towers B6 and B9, part of an eight-tower freehold project in Emirates City, have been left without internet access for years due to incorrectly installed cables.

In June, residents were hit by a string of power cuts while poor construction standards were even impacting their health.

One B9 resident said he moved of the flat he bought more than two years ago after his young children developed rashes due to excessive mould.

“My children [aged two and four] got rashes and the doctor told me it was because of the mould and the paint and cement flakes dropping from the walls,” said Mohammed Allam, who left his flat a year ago.

The Egyptian, 38, said he and his wife tried to keep the floor clean but paint kept peeling off the walls.

“The children were small and always crawling on the ground so it was hard to control the situation. Even after we repainted the walls, the paint kept peeling.”

He said his neighbours told him his flat was once flooded with 25cm of sewage water, which Mr. Allam said explained the amount of moisture in the walls.

He bought the flat for Dh285,000 after the estate agent told him his family would have access to the building's recreational facilities.

The owner of a two-bedroom flat in B9 said he also planned to move out after suffering a long list of problems. “I feel like I got scammed when I first bought the apartment in 2005,” said Abu Assad, 55, from Yemen. “The delivery process took around 10 years.”

To read the article, click [here](#).



Midrand's 'Airpocalypse' a Reality with Toxic Air (South Africa)

On an air pollution scale, anything between zero and 20 is safe to breathe. At 300, things are labelled ‘airpocalypse’. In Midrand, Gauteng, pollution levels regularly hit 1,000.

The smoke from the factory complex is a dark black funnel on the screen. The funnel goes straight up into the sky. On windy nights, and in winter, it gets trapped and sits over people’s homes as they lie in bed breathing deep lungfuls of air in their sleep.

Factories tend to do their worst polluting at night — something I’ve found out from communities living near factories around the country. In Midrand, these factories, as well as the increasing number of people burning wood and coal as the price of electricity soars, are creating a toxic soup.

By coincidence, I got to try this out two weeks ago, with a bike race next door to the very same factory that we circled around with an air pollution camera. At the race, I strap on a personal air quality sensor to my shirt, next to where I’m breathing.

At the end of the race, as exhausted cyclists splay out on the floor, the amount of nitrogen dioxide — from the nearby road and the hundreds of cars now making their way away from the bike race — heads into dangerous levels. This is all on top of what is already toxic air.

To read the article, click [here](#).

See *Horrific black mould* on page 14

Horrific Black Mould Covering a Family's Home in Cardiff (U.K.)

This is the horrific black mould a family say they have had to live with for the last 13 years.

Corrine Saunders, 33, lives at the property in Adamsdown, Cardiff, with her two children and says the house is "unbearable."

She says the Cardiff Community Housing Association home has been covered in mould ever since she has moved in and says her 13-year-old son can't live in the house any more due to breathing difficulties.

The house also has holes in the attic which has now become a place for birds to land.

She said: "Shortly after I moved in it started to show on the walls and the ceilings. I've had numerous calls with the housing association who haven't done anything to help me since I've moved in."

"I have holes in my attic so birds are always flying in, it's so incredibly frustrating. My son has had to live with my mum because he genuinely can't breathe at home.

"I moved in to this to make it a family home but it isn't that is it? If my family can't even live here then what's the point? It makes me so sad and angry that we have to live like this."

Corinne, who lives at the property with her 17-year-old daughter, says the housing association have sent out inspectors but nothing has been done.

She says they told her to continue to wash the mould off the walls and purchase mould remover from the supermarket.

"Initially I did try mould remover and other items but they're just short-term solutions. It's all over the walls, across the ceilings, just everything. Looking at it makes you feel physically sick."

To read the article, click [here](#).



Indiana University Told Staff to Downplay Campus Mold Outbreak

The crisis came to a head late last year, when visible mold was found in 80% of inspected dorm rooms, according to the lawsuit. Moreover, roughly four times as many students living in the affected housing complained to the health center of mold-related illnesses than did three years prior.

The memo points to an email from Peter Grogg, executive director of the health center, to David O'Guinn, vice provost for student affairs and dean of students, as evidence that officials told university physicians to downplay mold-related illnesses.

The university will move some 1,100 students off campus for the 2019-20 academic year in order to renovate the dorms with the mold issues — a project expected to cost \$56 million.

However, the lawsuit alleges officials knew about the festering problem since at least 2005, when the university released a report detailing the extent of the mold issues on campus. To read the article, click [here](#).

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