

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

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



October 1, 2016

Inside This Issue

- 1 New report by WHO about "global health emergency" killing millions
- 2 Mold Toxins in Nuts and Corn can Aggravate Cystic Fibrosis, Cause Infections
- 3 Researchers Identify Fungus as Key Factor in Crohn's Disease
- 3 Toxic Chemicals in Household Dust Linked to Cancer and Infertility
- 4 Carnegie Library Closes Due to Mold Concerns (Washington, D.C.)
- 4 Water Damage at Vancouver's Main Library (Canada)
- 5 CEH Files Lawsuit Against Dow Chemical for Harmful Pesticide
- 6 State Farm Policyholders Get Class-Action Status in \$1 Billion RICO Lawsuit
- 6 Invisible Disabilities and Parking in the Handicap Spot
- 7 Mold Closes Beds at Young VA Center, may also be a problem at Haley (Florida)
- 7 Louisiana Residents Live in Black Mold Riddled Homes after Flood
- 8 Residents in Olney Apartments Deal with Mold
- 8 Wyoming School Closes Due to High Levels of CO2 and Benzene
- 9 Health Department Orders Cleanup for Moldy Apartments (Indiana)
- 9 Mold Outbreak at South Brunswick High School (New Jersey)
- 10 Insurer Grudgingly Pays for Destructive Bathroom Leak (New Zealand)
- 10 Pennsylvania Middle School Being Closed Due to Mold Problem
- 10 Quick Links

New report by WHO about "global health emergency" killing millions

Nine out of 10 people globally live in places with poor air quality, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said, blaming a worldwide air pollution crisis for being a major factor in millions of deaths per year.

In a [new report](#) released on Tuesday, the health agency said 92 percent of people live in areas where air quality exceeds WHO limits. It also published an interactive map detailing the global "health emergency".

"Some three million deaths a year are linked to exposure to outdoor air pollution," the UN body said in the report, which was based on data from 3,000 sites across the world.

"Indoor air pollution can be just as deadly. In 2012, an estimated 6.5 million deaths (11.6 percent of all global deaths) were associated with indoor and outdoor air pollution together."

According to WHO, almost all of the air pollution-related deaths are due to non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular illnesses, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer.

Pollution "affects practically all countries in the world and all parts of society", Maria Neira, head of the WHO's department of health and environment, said.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

In May 2016, WHO approved a new "road map" for accelerated action on air pollution and its causes. The [roadmap](#) calls upon the health sector to increase monitoring of air pollution locally, assess the health impacts, and to assume a greater leadership role in national policies that affect air pollution.

According to the World Health Organization, almost all of the air pollution-related deaths are due to cardiovascular illnesses, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer

See *Mold toxins---cystic fibrosis* page 2

Mold Toxins in Nuts and Corn can Aggravate Cystic Fibrosis, Cause Infections

Toxins produced by mold found on nuts and corn can exacerbate cystic fibrosis (CF) and pave the way for airway infections, as they block self-protective mechanisms for the lungs.

The study, “Fungal Aflatoxins Reduce Respiratory Mucosal Ciliary Function,” published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, showed that the toxins affected the movement of airway cilia — the hair-like structures that clear dust and microbes from the airways — effectively preventing the cleaning of the airways.

The toxins studied by the researchers at Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, are called aflatoxins, and are already known to cause cancer and liver damage. Up to one-fourth of the world’s food crops are estimated to be contaminated with the types of mold that produce them.

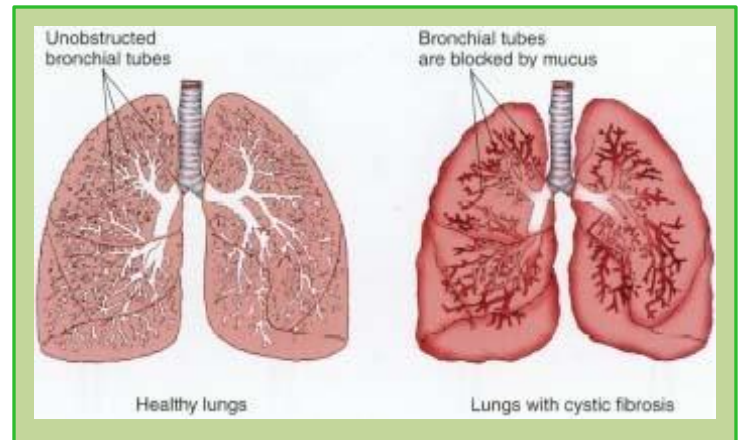
People who work in grain processing or similar occupations, where they can easily inhale mold aflatoxins, often get allergic fungal rhinosinusitis (blocked and running nose) and bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, a condition characterized by cough and fever.

Despite this knowledge, few studies are investigating how the toxins affect the mucosa of the airways.

Using human airway cells grown in the lab, the research team discovered that the toxins block the movement of airway cilia. This mat of tiny “hair” lining our airways constantly beats to clear them of dust, mucus, and microbes. When the system is not working as it should, microbes have an open door to the airways. And in people with CF, those toxins can severely worsen disease symptoms.

“With these defenses impaired, it may create a window of opportunity for the infection, and potentially a domino effect,” Robert Lee, PhD, an assistant professor at Perelman and lead author of the study, said in a news release.

...continued in the next column



Aflatoxins in nuts and corn can exacerbate cystic fibrosis and pave the way for airway infections

Mold Toxins in Nuts and Corn can Aggravate Cystic Fibrosis, Cause Infections (cont'd)

“Patients may become more susceptible to upper respiratory infections and chronic rhinosinusitis that can ‘seed’ lower respiratory infections, especially in those with a compromised immune system. It can also exacerbate the more severe lung diseases, such as cystic fibrosis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,” said Noam Cohen, MD, PhD, and the study’s senior author.

But the researchers’ work also has an upside. They discovered that the toxins activate an enzyme called PKC (protein kinase C) to arrest the movement of cilia. Drugs blocking PKC are already being explored for other conditions, and when the team tested two such experimental drugs, they found they could prevent the toxins’ harmful effect.

Since the toxins pave way for bacterial airway infections, drugs that block PKC might also reduce the need for antibiotics to treat infections, and so help to limit further development of antibiotic resistance.

“PKC inhibitors may decrease fungal respiratory disease and ultimately help alleviate some of those consequences,” said Cohen.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Researchers Identify Fungus as Key Factor in Crohn's Disease

A Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine-led team of international researchers has for the first time identified a fungus as a key factor in the development of Crohn's disease. The researchers also linked a new bacterium to the previous bacteria associated with Crohn's.

The groundbreaking findings, published on September 20th in mBio, could lead to potential new treatments and ultimately, cures for the debilitating inflammatory bowel disease, which causes severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, weight loss and fatigue.

"We already know that bacteria, in addition to genetic and dietary factors, play a major role in causing Crohn's disease," said the study's senior and corresponding author, Mahmoud A Ghannoum, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Medical Mycology at Case Western Reserve and University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center.

"Essentially, patients with Crohn's have abnormal immune responses to these bacteria, which inhabit the intestines of all people. While most researchers focus their investigations on these bacteria, few have examined the role of fungi, which are also present in everyone's intestines. Our study adds significant new information to understanding why some people develop Crohn's disease. Equally important, it can result in a new generation of treatments, including medications and probiotics, which hold the potential for making qualitative and quantitative differences in the lives of people suffering from Crohn's."

The researchers found strong fungal-bacterial interactions in those with Crohn's disease: two bacteria (*Escherichia coli* and *Serratia marcescens*) and one fungus (*Candida tropicalis*) moved in lock step. The presence of all three in the sick family members was significantly higher compared to their healthy relatives, suggesting that the bacteria and fungus interact in the intestines.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Researchers identify fungus in Crohn's Disease – could lead to new treatment or cure

Toxic Chemicals in Household Dust Linked to Cancer and Infertility

Household dust harbours a cocktail of toxic chemicals that have been linked to an increased risk of a range of health hazards, from cancer to problems with fertility, researchers in the U.S. have found.

The chemicals are shed from a host of common products, from flooring to electrical goods as well as beauty and cleaning products.

"We think our homes are a safe haven but unfortunately they are being polluted by toxic chemicals from all our products," said Veena Singla, co-author of the study from the Natural Resources Defense Council in California.

The scientists cautioned that children were particularly vulnerable to the health effects of contaminated dust as they often play or crawl on the floor and frequently touch their mouths. "They end up having a lot more exposure to chemicals in dust and they are more vulnerable to toxic effects because their brains and bodies are still developing," said Singla.

Writing in the Environmental Science and Technology journal, Singla and colleagues described how they analysed 26 peer-reviewed papers, as well as one unpublished dataset, from 1999 onwards to examine the chemical make-up of indoor dust. The studies covered a wide range of indoor environments, from homes to schools and gymnasiums across 14 states.

"What emerged was a rather disturbing picture of many different toxic chemicals from our products that are present in dust in the home and [are] contaminating the home," said Singla.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

See *Carnegie Library closes due to mold* on page 4

Carnegie Library Closes Due to Mold Concerns (Washington, D.C.)

The Carnegie Library of Washington D.C. is closed after mold was found inside the 115-year-old building on Friday.

The building opened in 1903 and has operated as a public library and museum over the years. Recent reports said Apple was considering opening a store in the structure. All that has been put on hold after mold was found, and officials ordered the building closed until further notice.

"We're hopeful that a remedy to any mold issue in the building can be expedited so we can re-open to public," said John Suau, executive director of the Historical Society of Washington. "We host exhibits in last year and a half. We've opened eight exhibits on the history of D.C."

"As we go in to conduct further testing, there will be collection specialists that will assist the Historical Society with the care and shepherding of those collections," Suau said.

The extent of the mold problem is still unknown, but no artifacts in the Historical Society's collection have been damaged. A spokesperson for Events DC, the government agency that manages the building, said they are in the process of conducting a complete evaluation of the property.

"We will perform any remediation necessary to make sure that the building is safe for our patrons and employees," said the spokesperson. "We closed the building out of an abundance of caution."

"The new exhibit that was supposed to open on Thursday, we're looking for a venue with our partners in the museum community," Suau said.

The biggest event to be impacted by the mold and the closure of the Carnegie Library is the Historical Society's annual gala fundraiser, set for October 7.

Click [here](#) to read the article.



Carnegie Library in Washington, D.C.

Water Damage at Vancouver's Main Library (Canada)

Water damage at Vancouver's downtown public library is worse than previously thought, officials have confirmed.

The atrium and basement level of the main branch were flooded early last Friday morning, after the sprinklers accidentally went off around 5:30 a.m. PT.

According to chief librarian Sandra Singh, a film crew was packing up from an overnight shoot for the Supergirl television series when the sprinklers went off.

At the time, library officials said the damage was limited, and the library opened as scheduled that day at 10 a.m. But a week later, the cause of the incident is still under investigation, and it will be a few weeks before the damage is repaired and the full cost is known, said Singh.

"We are expecting that repairs will be covered by insurance, and we still don't have a sense of the total cost of the repair."

Most of the damage was on the basement level of the library where the walls and floors in the meeting rooms were flooded.

A section of the library's automated sorting system was also damaged and books are now being sorted by hand, until it can be repaired.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

CEH Files Lawsuit Against Dow Chemical for Harmful Pesticide

Last week, the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) filed a lawsuit against Dow Agrosciences LLC, also known as Dow Chemical, charging that the “chemical manufacturing giant” fails to warn communities across California about the dangers associated with wide use of the chemical Telone. A trade name for the chemical 1,3-Dichloropropene, or 1,3-D, Telone is a known carcinogen and is the third most heavily used pesticide in the state.

The case focuses on the air pollution caused by the pesticide, as it has been found to linger in the air for multiple days after application, disproportionately impacting the rural communities, often with large minority populations, that live in the immediate vicinity.

The case was filed in the State of California Alameda County Superior Court.

Routinely applied to strawberry fields, almond orchards, vineyards, and an array of other crops, 1,3-D is a restricted use soil fumigant, used to kill nematodes, insects, and weeds that has strong links to cancer and other serious health issues. The use of the chemical in the production of strawberries came into prominence with the forced reduction of another fumigant, methyl bromide.

Scientists became concerned about methyl bromide in the 1970s, when it was linked to serious effects on the ozone and was blamed for between 5 and 10 percent of ozone depletion. With the signing of Montreal Protocol in 1987, a treaty signed by President Reagan, methyl bromide became the only pesticide to be banned in the U.S. by treaty, a ban meant to be in full effect by 2005. Though the U.S. continues to allow the use of methyl bromide through a “critical use exemption,” the ban gave rise to a new class of fumigants, which included 1,3-D, the chemical in Telone.

In time, 1,3-D was revealed to be no better than its predecessor, raising concerns about the public health and environmental risks associated with its use.



CEH Files Lawsuit Against Dow Chemical for Harmful Pesticide (cont'd)

A 2014 publication by the Center for Investigative Reporting, *Dark Side of the Strawberry*, revealed increased uses of 1,3-D results in unsafe levels of the chemical in the air and that decisions behind 1,3-D monitoring and application rates are fraught with industry manipulation and risk reduction work-arounds. Specifically, California regulators allowed growers to exceed the 1,3-D health limits, despite documented concerns from state scientists, and turned to Dow Agrosciences, the defendant in the current lawsuit, to figure out how to fix the problem.

The Center for Environmental Health’s lawsuit focuses on the air pollution caused by the use of Telone, and the disproportionate impact it has on minority communities. Telone was initially banned in California in 1990 after studies showed air pollution from the chemical lingered near farms. But the toxic fumigant was later allowed back on the market after a strong lobbying effort lead by Dow.

In 2002, California’s Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) loosened the restrictions on Telone over the objections of its own scientists who stated, “Department of Pesticide Regulation scientists do not agree [with the decision to re-allow Telone] and suggest that [the new rules] may actually increase cancer risk.”

“Telone is a serious health threat to families who deserve environmental justice now,” said Michael Green, CEO of CEH. “For decades, Dow and state regulators have put profits ahead of our health. It is long past time for California to protect children and families from Dow’s dangerous chemical.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

See *State Farm class action lawsuit* on page 6

State Farm Policyholders Get Class–Action Status in \$1 Billion RICO Lawsuit

A federal racketeering lawsuit involving State Farm and allegations of funneling money into the election of a state judge has been granted class-action status, potentially benefiting more than 4 million policyholders.

In 2012, plaintiffs that included Mark Hale of New York and Todd Shadle of Texas filed a two-count, class-action lawsuit in a U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. The class could include 4.7 million policyholders, court documents show.

They alleged that, starting in 2003, State Farm conducted a racketeering enterprise to enable the insurer to evade payment of a \$1.05 billion judgment that had been affirmed by the Illinois Appellate Court.

The underlying case had involved a class action suit filed in 1997 regarding claims for damage to cars between 1987 and 1998 that were repaired with nonoriginal equipment manufacturer parts. It led to the \$1.05 billion verdict.

In a 29-page order Friday, U.S. District Judge David Herndon recapped the plaintiff's allegations, which sought to disqualify Judge Lloyd Karmeier from participating in the appeal, "having received reliable information that State Farm had exerted financial and political influence" to get Lloyd Karmeier elected to the Illinois Supreme Court.

The request was denied and in August 2005, "with now-Justice Karmeier participating in the court's deliberations and casting his vote in State Farm's favor, the Illinois Supreme Court issued a decision overturning the \$1.05 billion judgment."

State Farm "recruited Karmeier, directed his campaign, had developed a vast network of contributors and funneled as much as \$4 million to the campaign," according to the complaint. "Then, after achieving Karmeier's election, State Farm deliberately concealed all of this from the Illinois Supreme Court while its appeal was pending."

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Invisible Disabilities are Real Disabilities



Don't Judge Someone Unless You Have Walked in Their Shoes

Invisible Disabilities and Parking in the Handicap Spot

Just as I closed my car door and stuck my key in the ignition, a loud thud made me jump and look at my side-view window, which now appeared to have coffee streaming down it.

"What the hell?" I muttered to myself. But before I could even begin to process what had just happened, the woman who threw the coffee cup made the situation very clear.

"Get the f*ck out of the handicapped spot, you loser!" she screamed at me. "You have legs, so use them! I watched you walk in and out of that building and you are a lazy excuse for a human being! I've taken down your license plate number and have called the police. YOU ARE GOING TO HELL!"

I'm used to being in this situation by now (and admittedly past the point of mature restraint because it happens so often) so I told the woman that I would save her a seat in hell, which she would be occupying very soon if she didn't get out of my way. Then I slowly began to back my car out of the spot and pray that I didn't run over her feet.

You can't see my strength wasting away from a genetic disorder (it resembles Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome), which ravages my joints and steals my muscle tone. You can't see that there are times when my lung function hovers around 70 percent. You don't know I'm recovering from a cardiac condition.

You also don't know that I go to physical therapy for two hours a day, four times a week, in an effort to retain the muscle mass I have.

Please allow me to have my dignity — and my parking spot.

Click [here](#) to read this article.

See *Mold closes beds at VA Center* on page 7

Mold Closes Beds at Young VA Center, may also be a problem at Haley

Officials at Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals on both sides of Tampa Bay are dealing with mold issues.

The C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center at Bay Pines has partially closed a ward in the main hospital building after the discovery of mold in shower rooms resulting from leaking pipes. Officials say the health of staff and patients is not affected and that because cleanup efforts were planned last year, there will be no interruption in patient services.

Meantime, across the bay, officials at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa are investigating whether they have a mold problem at the new Primary Care Annex building.

Mold was discovered last year in shower rooms in wards 5A and 5B of the main hospital at the Young center due to water leaks, according to Dangel.

Between 150 and 170 employees work in those wards, according to Dangel, and a large portion of the medical center's 3,200 employees work in the building.

The two wards, which are used for surgical patients, have a total of 74 beds, said Dangel.

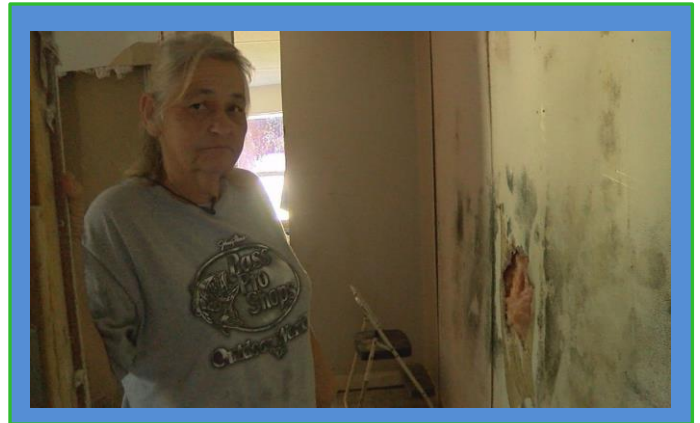
Ward 5B is partially closed, Dangel said. Of the total 38 beds available there, 13 have been taken out of service while work is being completed while 25 beds remain in service for patient care.

The entire project is expected to last six months, Dangel said.

Officials at Haley are dealing with a potential mold problem at the Primary Care Annex, which opened two years ago.

The discovery last week of stained ceiling tiles after downpours from Hurricane Hermine prompted officials at Haley to contact the annex landlords.

Click [here](#) to read the article.



Louisiana Residents Live in Black Mold Riddled Homes after Flood

Now that the national TV cameras are gone, it's been hard for the world outside Louisiana to really see what the floods have left in their wake.

In August, over 30 inches of rain fell in Baton Rouge, causing historic flooding, damaging thousands of homes and killing 13 people.

Imagine having to live outdoors in a tent without basic needs. Inside your home, dangerous black mold grows on your walls. That is the reality many flood survivors have to face.

In Eastover trailer park we met Annie Abants. Nothing could be salvaged from her trailer after flood waters ripped through it.

"I've lost everything," said Annie Abants. "It's pretty rough darling, it's pretty rough."

"All you can do is walk right here darling because that entire floor is messed up. That's real weak over there," said Abants as she showed us around her damaged home.

But that's not the only danger for Abants while she stays here.

"This is black mold. It's coming out of the wall," said Abants as she pointed to black patches that mark her walls.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

See *Residents in Olney Apartments* on page 8

Residents in Olney Apartments Deal with Mold

Some residents in Olney are still dealing with the problems left behind by heavy rains last month that flooded the Bluebonnet Apartments.

Residents who live in the housing authority apartments said flooding happens frequently, and it has caused what they call a "severe black mold problem" that is affecting their health.

About a month ago Olney was hit with around 6 to 8 inches of rain that caused serious flooding in some areas, it's not the first time Bluebonnet has flooded, and residents said the result is they live in apartments that put their health at risk.

Pamela Guerin said her apartment has flooded at least a half a dozen times in the 3 years she's lived there, and 3 times this year alone, which has caused an extensive outbreak of black mold.

"We see water pooled in the back for long periods of time, the mosquitoes are horrible, the fleas and the bugs and the ground is rotten, it's a nightmare," Guerin said.

And Guerin said going inside to escape the outside threats just exposes her to a different hazard.

"I have nausea, I have insomnia, I have neurological disorders, I have chronic pain, the list just goes on and on," Guerin said.

She also said she reported the mold to the housing authority several times, but claims nothing has ever been done. Olney Housing Authority Director Rick Dinwiddie says the apartments have been there since the 1950s, and are unfortunately located in a flood plain.

Other residents at Bluebonnet say they are also dealing with the effects of the mold.

"It's always been like this, health issues have been pretty bad, my son has been sick quite frequently, ear infections almost every month for the past 2 years."

Click [here](#) to read the article.



Wyoming School Closes Due to High Levels of CO2 and Benzene

The Wyoming school district had to shut down the Midwest School on May 26.

The Casper-Natrona County Health Department on Monday reported the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a division of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, completed a formal review of the air sampling it conducted on June 16 and 17.

"ATSDR concluded that the air quality events that occurred in Midwest School in May 2016 constituted an urgent health hazard and that school officials and others who determined that the school needed to be evacuated were right in doing so," the report said.

The most serious findings from testing on May 26 were very high levels of carbon dioxide, areas of the school that were deficient in oxygen, and one classroom that had a level of benzene 200 times more than ATSDR guidelines.

Short-term effects of inhaling benzene include drowsiness, tremors, unconsciousness and death. Long-term exposure can cause anemia, cancer and leukemia, the report said.

FDL has sealed an old well next to the school, and they have installed a vapor extraction system in the school.

The school will be closed through this semester.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

See *Health Department Orders Cleanup* on page 9

Health Department Orders Cleanup for Moldy Apartments (Indiana)

The Woodhaven Park Apartments on the west side have some units that are filled with mold, mildew and others that have fallen into disrepair.

Tenants living there say their landlord is doing nothing to fix their problems.

"This has been messed up for a month and a half," said tenant Robert Coleman.

"Two or three times a week I've contacted building management and they told me they were going to get it fixed," he said.

Coleman said his management company removed part of the ceiling in his bathroom because of a mold issue. Six weeks later, his ceiling is still not replaced.

This is just the tip of the iceberg in Coleman's two bedroom apartment.

The smell of mold and mildew reeks throughout.

"You call them and call them and call them and they say they're going to come and they never come," said Tracy Cox.

Cox is a tenant as well. She too has odor from mold and mildew that consumes her apartment.

"I think it's wrong, to do people like this," she said.

The Marion County Health Department has been to both apartments and has issued work orders to the management, demanding they fix the mold, the mildew and the caving ceilings.

The Marion County Health Department will be back out at the apartments Friday to make sure repairs were made. If not, Woodhaven can end up in court.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

The Marion County Health Department has been to both apartments and has issued work orders to the management, demanding they fix the mold, the mildew and the caving ceilings.

Mold Outbreak at South Brunswick High School (New Jersey)

At least five classrooms in South Brunswick High School had to be shut down this week due to a mold growth there, Patch has learned.

The five rooms were closed off to students and staff for the past seven days as the district addressed the mold growth. However, as of Friday, students were allowed back into the classrooms. A picture of the mold in one of the rooms is attached.

The mold growth was tracked to a malfunctioning air handler on the high school's roof that controls the climate in eleven rooms, said Acting Superintendent Dr. Gary McCartney, who said he was told about the mold a few days before the school year began.

"We notified our staff and parents immediately. The District immediately brought in certified air quality testing and then hired a certified professional cleaning company that does mold removal," he said.

Some at the school say the mold is growing beyond those five rooms, and that the district is not doing enough to remove it.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

GIHN Note: According to the school superintendent, "air sample" tests show the mold was only in 5 rooms. As we know, "air sample" tests are not adequate to determine if a building is safe. We frequently send educational information in response to these types of articles.

See *Insurer pays for bathroom leak* on page 10

Insurer Grudgingly Pays for Destructive Bathroom Leak (New Zealand)

Whangarei couple Philip and Mhairi Collins renovated their 110-year-old villa in Whangarei a couple of years ago, but during the build a mistake was made.

But the leak was in the wall cavity – so it went unseen for over two years - until the water started coming up through the floorboards in the next room.

The couple then discovered they had damage in the walls, in the floor, under the floor, and also - toxic black mould, proper term, stachybotrys fungus.

It can be extremely toxic, carcinogenic and immuno-suppressive. The tests also showed aspergillus spores - which can produce severe allergic reactions.

The Collins' needed it gone, and quickly, especially because a few months ago, Mhairi visited her doctor, concerned that the flu-like symptoms she had might be caused by the toxic mould.

They weren't, but **she was diagnosed with lung cancer** and has undergone immediate, life-enhancing treatment.

But, her immune system is compromised, and for nine months the couple has been trying to get the plumber's insurance company QBE to pay for the fix up and it's become urgent.

Fair Go became involved, and since then, insurer QBE has now agreed to cover all of the costs of the damage - leaving the Collins very relieved.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

The leak was in the wall cavity so it went unseen for over two years until the water started coming up through the floorboards in the next room.

Pennsylvania Middle School Being Closed Due to Mold Problem

Officials say a northeastern Pennsylvania middle school is being closed indefinitely due to an extensive mold problem.

School board president Joseph Mazur announced Tuesday morning at a board meeting that Wyoming Valley West Middle School in Luzerne County would close after classes were dismissed for the day.

Mazur said the building would be closed "maybe for three months, maybe for six months, maybe forever."

Mazur said the school board originally believed that only two basement rooms were affected but after consultation with an environmental specialist learned that the problem was more extensive.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Quick Links:

Website: <https://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Health Effects:
<https://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health-effects>

Position Statement:
<https://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/GIHN-position-statement>

Next Newsletter: November 1, 2016