



EXPANDED FUNGAL ASSESSMENT REPORT TM

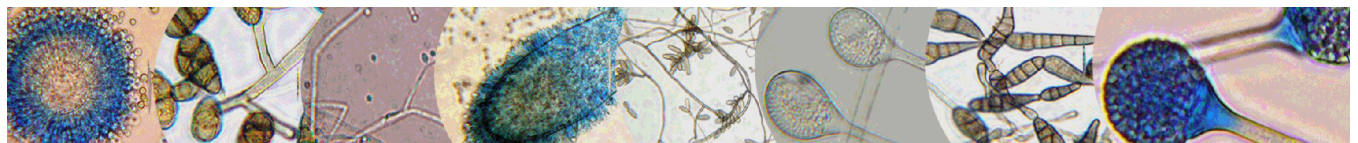
Prepared Exclusively For

Pillar to Post

98 West Lakemist Circle
The Woodlands, TX 77381
Phone: 936-499-2957

Report Date: 4/17/2021
Project: 2215 Bramead Dr
EMSL Order: 152102652

AIHA-LAP, LLC-EMLAP Accredited
#102575, Texas Mold LAB0105



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EMSL Analytical, Inc.

5950 Fairbanks N. Houston Rd. Houston, TX 77040

Phone: (713) 686-3635

Fax: (713) 686-3645

Web: <http://www.EMSL.com>

Email: houstonlab@emsl.com

Attn: Bob Avery
Pillar to Post
98 West Lakemist Circle
The Woodlands, TX 77381

EMSL Order: 152102652
Customer ID: PPTW34
Collected: 4/15/2021
Received: 4/15/2021
Analyzed: 4/16/2021

Proj: 2215 Bramead Dr

1. Description of Analysis

Analytical Laboratory

EMSL Analytical, Inc. (EMSL) is a nationwide, full service, analytical testing laboratory network providing Asbestos, Mold, Indoor Air Quality, Microbiological, Environmental, Chemical, Forensic, Materials, Industrial Hygiene and Mechanical Testing services since 1981. Ranked as the premier independently owned environmental testing laboratory in the nation, EMSL puts analytical quality as its top priority. This quality is recognized by many well-respected federal, state and private accrediting agencies, and assured by our high quality personnel, including many Ph.D. microbiologists and mycologists.

EMSL is an independent laboratory that performed the analysis of these samples. EMSL did not conduct the sampling or site investigation for this report. The samples referenced herein were analyzed under strict quality control procedures using state-of-the-art microbiological methods. The analytical methods used and the data presented are scientifically and legally defensible.

The laboratory data is provided in compliance with ISO-IEC 17025 guidelines for the particular test(s) requested, including any associated limitations for the methods employed. These data are intended for use by professionals having knowledge of the testing methods necessary to interpret them accurately.

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Air Samples - Spore traps:

Spore traps are commercially available sampling devices that capture airborne particles on an adhesive slide. Air is pulled through the device using a vacuum pump. Spores, as well as other airborne particles, are impacted on the collection adhesive. Using spore trap collection methods has inherent limitations. These collection methods are biased towards larger spore sizes.

The analysis for total spore counts is a direct microscopic examination and does not include culturing or growing the fungi. Therefore, the results include both viable and non-viable spores. Some fungal groups produce similar spore types that cannot be distinguished by direct microscopic examination alone (i.e., *Aspergillus/Penicillium*, and others). Other spore types may lack distinguishing features that aid in their identification. These types are grouped into larger categories such as Ascospores or Basidiospores.

Fungal spores are identified and grouped by morphological characteristics including color, shape, septation, ornamentation, and fruiting structures (if present) which are compared to published mycological identification keys and texts. EMSL reports provide spore counts per cubic meter of air to three significant figures. Please note that each spore category is reported to three significant figures. Due to rounding and the application of three significant figures the sum of the individual spore numbers may not equal the total spore count on the report. EMSL does not maintain responsibility for final volume concentrations (counts/m³) since this volume is provided by the field collector and can not be verified by EMSL.

EMSL analyzes spore traps using phase contrast microscopy. There is a wide choice of collection devices (Air-O-Cell, Micro-5, Burkhard, etc.) on the market. Differences in analytical method may exist between spore trap devices.

Spore trap results are reported in spores per cubic meter of air. Due to the other airborne particles collected with the spores, EMSL reports a background particle density. Background density is an indication of overall particulate matter present on the sample (i.e. dust in the air). High background concentrations may obscure spores such as the *Penicillium/Aspergillus* group. The rating system is from 1-5 with 1 = 1 - 25% of the background obscured by material, 2 = 26 - 50%, 3 = 51 - 75%, 4 = 76% - 99%, 5 = 100% or overloaded. A background rating of 4 or higher should be regarded as a minimum count since the actual concentrations may be higher than those reported. EMSL will not be held responsible for overloading of samples. Sample volumes are left to the discretion of the company or persons conducting the fieldwork.

Skin fragment density is the percentage of skin cells making up the total background material, 1 = 1 - 25%, 2 = 26 - 50%, 3 = 51 - 75%, 4 = 76-100%. Skin fragment density is considered an indication of the general cleanliness in the area sampled. It has been estimated that up to 90% of household dust consists of dead skin cells.

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2. Analytical Results

See attached data reports and charts.

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Spore Trap ASSESSMENT Report™ Air-O-Cell™ Analysis of Fungal Spores & Particulates (Methods MICRO-SOP-201, ASTM D7391)

	Particle Identification	Raw Count	(Count/m³)	% of Total	Interpretation Guideline
152102652-0001	Alternaria (Ulocladium)	-	-	-	
	Ascospores	3	100	20.8	
Client Sample ID 1	Aspergillus/Penicillium	-	-	-	
	Basidiospores	4	200	41.7	
Location Kitchen/Laundry	Bipolaris++	-	-	-	
	Chaetomium	-	-	-	
	Cladosporium	3	100	20.8	
Sample Volume (L) 75	Curvularia	1	40	8.3	
	Epicoccum	-	-	-	
	Fusarium	-	-	-	
	Ganoderma	-	-	-	
	Myxomycetes++	1	40	8.3	
Sample Type Inside	Pithomyces++	-	-	-	
	Rust	-	-	-	
	Scopulariopsis/Microascus	-	-	-	
Comments	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella	-	-	-	
	Unidentifiable Spores	-	-	-	
	Cercospora++	-	-	-	
	Helicosporium	-	-	-	
	Nigrospora	-	-	-	
	Stemphylium	-	-	-	
	Total Fungi	12	480	100	
	Other				
	Hyphal Fragment	1	40	-	
	Insect Fragment	-	-	-	
Pollen	-	-	-		
Analytical Sensitivity 600x: 44 counts/cubic meter		Skin Fragments:		1	1 to 4 (low to high)
Analytical Sensitivity 300x *: 13* counts/cubic meter		Fibrous Particulate:		1	1 to 4 (low to high)
		Background:		1	1 to 4 (low to high); 5 (overloaded)

No discernable field blank was submitted with this group of samples.

++ Includes other spores with similar morphology; see EMSL's fungal glossary for each specific category.

- Concentration at or below background
- Concentration above background
- Concentration 10X or more above background

- Not commonly found growing indoors, spores likely come from outside.
- Spores reported to be able to cause allergies in individuals.
- Potential for mycotoxin production exists with these fungi.
- These fungi are considered water damage indicators.

Terri Lawrence

Initial report from: 04/16/2021 09:54:04

Terri Lawrence, Lab Manager
or Other Approved Signatory

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	Particle Identification	Raw Count	(Count/m ³)	% of Total	Interpretation Guideline
152102652-0002	Alternaria (Ulocladium)	-	-	-	
	Ascospores	-	-	-	
Client Sample ID 2	Aspergillus/Penicillium	2	90	32.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Basidiospores	2	90	32.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Bipolaris++	-	-	-	
	Chaetomium	-	-	-	
Location Back Master Bath	Cladosporium	3	100	35.7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Curvularia	-	-	-	
	Epicoccum	-	-	-	
Sample Volume (L) 75	Fusarium	-	-	-	
	Ganoderma	-	-	-	
	Myxomycetes++	-	-	-	
	Pithomyces++	-	-	-	
Sample Type Inside	Rust	-	-	-	
	Scopulariopsis/Microascus	-	-	-	
	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella	-	-	-	
Comments	Unidentifiable Spores	-	-	-	
	Cercospora++	-	-	-	
	Helicosporium	-	-	-	
	Nigrospora	-	-	-	
	Stemphylium	-	-	-	
	Total Fungi	7	280	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other				
	Hyphal Fragment	-	-	-	
	Insect Fragment	-	-	-	
	Pollen	-	-	-	
Analytical Sensitivity 600x: 44 counts/cubic meter		Skin Fragments:		1	1 to 4 (low to high)
Analytical Sensitivity 300x *: 13* counts/cubic meter		Fibrous Particulate:		1	1 to 4 (low to high)
		Background:		1	1 to 4 (low to high); 5 (overloaded)

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	Particle Identification	Raw Count	(Count/m ³)	% of Total	Interpretation Guideline	
152102652-0003	Alternaria (Ulocladium)	-	-	-		
	Ascospores	1	40	14.3		
Client Sample ID 3	Aspergillus/Penicillium	-	-	-		
	Basidiospores	3	100	35.7		
	Bipolaris++	-	-	-		
Location Right Hall	Chaetomium	-	-	-		
	Cladosporium	2	90	32.1		
	Curvularia	-	-	-		
Sample Volume (L) 75	Epicoccum	-	-	-		
	Fusarium	-	-	-		
	Ganoderma	-	-	-		
	Myxomycetes++	1	40	14.3		
Sample Type Inside	Pithomyces++	-	-	-		
	Rust	-	-	-		
	Scopulariopsis/Microascus	-	-	-		
	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella	-	-	-		
Comments	Unidentifiable Spores	-	-	-		
	Cercospora++	-	-	-		
	Helicosporium	1*	10*	3.6		
	Nigrospora	-	-	-		
	Stemphylium	-	-	-		
	Total Fungi	8	280	100		
	Other					
	Hyphal Fragment	1	40	-		
Insect Fragment	-	-	-			
Pollen	1	40	-			
Analytical Sensitivity 600x: 44 counts/cubic meter		Skin Fragments:		2	1 to 4 (low to high)	
Analytical Sensitivity 300x *: 13* counts/cubic meter		Fibrous Particulate:		1	1 to 4 (low to high)	
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	Particle Identification	Raw Count	(Count/m ³)	% of Total	Interpretation Guideline
152102652-0004	Alternaria (Ulocladium)	2*	30*	0.1	
	Ascospores	94	4200	19.3	
Client Sample ID 4	Aspergillus/Penicillium	7	300	1.4	
	Basidiospores	162	7160	32.9	
Location Back Yard	Bipolaris++	-	-	-	
	Chaetomium	-	-	-	
	Cladosporium	222	9810	45.1	
Sample Volume (L) 75	Curvularia	-	-	-	
	Epicoccum	-	-	-	
	Fusarium	-	-	-	
	Ganoderma	-	-	-	
Sample Type Background	Myxomycetes++	-	-	-	
	Pithomyces++	-	-	-	
Comments	Rust	2	90	0.4	
	Scopulariopsis/Microascus	-	-	-	
	Stachybotrys/Memnoniella	-	-	-	
	Unidentifiable Spores	-	-	-	
	Cercospora++	1*	10*	0	
	Helicosporium	2	90	0.4	
	Nigrospora	1*	10*	0	
	Stemphylium	1	40	0.2	
	Total Fungi	494	21740	100	
	Other				
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	Pollen	5	200	-	
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3. Understanding the Results

EMSL Analytical, Inc. is an independent laboratory, providing unbiased and scientifically valid results. These data represent only a portion of an overall IAQ investigation. Visual information and environmental conditions measured during the site assessment (humidity, moisture readings, etc.) are crucial to any final interpretation of the results. Many factors impact the final results; therefore, result interpretation should only be conducted by qualified individuals. The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has published a good reference book covering sampling and data interpretation. It is entitled, Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control, 1999.

Fungal spores are found everywhere. Whether or not symptoms develop in people exposed to fungi depends on the nature of the fungal material (e.g., allergenic, toxic, or infectious), the exposure level, and the susceptibility of exposed persons. Susceptibility varies with the genetic predisposition (e.g., allergic reactions do not always occur in all individuals), age, pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, cancer, or chronic lung conditions), use of immunosuppressive drugs, and concurrent exposures. These reasons make it difficult to identify dose/response relationships that are required to establish “safe” or “unsafe” levels (i.e., permissible exposure limits).

It is generally accepted in the industry that indoor fungal growth is undesirable and inappropriate, necessitating removal or other appropriate remedial actions. The New York City guidelines and EPA guidelines for mold remediation in schools and commercial buildings define the conditions warranting mold remediation. Always remember that water is the key. Preventing water damage or water condensation will prevent mold growth.

This report is not intended to provide medical advice or advice concerning the relative safety of an occupied space. Always consult an occupational or environmental health physician who has experience addressing indoor air contaminants if you have any questions.

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4. Glossary of Fungi

ALTERNARIA(ULOCLADIUM)	
Natural Habitat	Common saprobe and pathogen of plants. Typically found on plant tissue, decaying wood, and foods. Soil . Air outdoors.
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Indoors near condensation (window frames, showers), House dust (in carpets, and air). Also colonizes building supplies, computer disks, cosmetics, leather, optical instruments, paper, sewage, stone monuments, textiles, wood pulp, and jet fuel
Water Activity	Aw =0.85-0.88 (water damage indicator)
Mode of Dissemination	Wind
Allergic Potential	Type I allergies (hay fever, asthma), Type III (hypersensitivity pneumonitis)
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Phaeohyphomycosis {causing cystic granulomas in the skin and subcutaneous tissue}. In immunocompetent patients, Alternaria colonizes the paranasal sinuses, leading to chronic hypertrophic sinusitis
Industrial Uses	Biocontrol of weed plants ·Biocontrol fungal plant pathogens.
Potential Toxins Produced	Alternariol (AOH) . Alternariol monomethylether (AME). Tenuazonic acid (TeA). Altenuene (ALT). Altertoxins (ATX)
Other Comments	Many species of Ulocladium have been renamed as Alternaria . Alternaria spores are one of the most common and potent indoor and outdoor airborne allergens. Additionally, Alternaria sensitization has been determined to be one of the most important factors in the onset of childhood asthma. Synergy with Cladosporium or Ulocladium may increase the severity of symptoms
References	Alternaria redefined. J. Woudenberg et al., Studies in Mycology. Volume 75, June 2013, Pages 171-212

ASCOSPORES	
Natural Habitat	Everywhere in nature.
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Depends on genus and species.
Water Activity	Depends on genus and species.
Mode of Dissemination	Forcible ejection or passive release and dissemination by wind or insects.
Allergic Potential	Depends on genus and species.
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Depends on genus and species.
Industrial Uses	Depends on genus and species.
Potential Toxins Produced	Depends on genus and species.
Other Comments	Ascospores are the result of sexual reproduction and produced in a saclike structure called an ascus. All ascospores belong to members of the Phylum Ascomycota, which encompasses a plethora of genera worldwide.

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EMSL Analytical, Inc.

5950 Fairbanks N. Houston Rd. Houston, TX 77040

Phone: (713) 686-3635 Fax: (713) 686-3645 Web: <http://www.EMSL.com> Email: houstonlab@emsl.com

Attn: Bob Avery
Pillar to Post
98 West Lakemist Circle
The Woodlands, TX 77381

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ASPERGILLUS/PENICILLIUM

Natural Habitat	Plant debris ·Seed ·Cereal crops
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Grows on a wide range of substrates indoors ·Prevalent in water damaged buildings ·Foods (blue mold on cereals, fruits, vegetables, dried foods) ·House dust ·Fabrics ·Leather ·Wallpaper ·Wallpaper glue
Water Activity	Aw=0.75-0.94
Mode of Dissemination	Wind ·Insects
Allergic Potential	Type I (hay fever, asthma) ·Type III (hypersensitivity)
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Possible depending on the species.
Industrial Uses	Many depending on the species
Potential Toxins Produced	Possible depending on the species.
Other Comments	Spores of Aspergillus and Penicillium (including others such as Acremonium, Talaromyces, and Paecilomyces) are small and spherical with few distinguishing characteristics. They cannot be differentiated or speciated by non-viable impaction sampling methods. Some species with very small spores may be undercounted in samples with high background debris.

BASIDIOSPORES

Natural Habitat	Forest floors. Lawns .Plants (saprobies or pathogens depending on genus)
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Depends on genus. Wood products
Water Activity	Unknown.
Mode of Dissemination	Forcible ejection. Wind currents.
Allergic Potential	Type I allergies (hay fever, asthma) . Type III (hypersensitivity pneumonitis)
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Depends on genus.
Industrial Uses	Edible mushrooms are used in the food industry.
Potential Toxins Produced	Amanitins. monomethyl-hydrazine. muscarine. ibotenic acid. psilocybin.
Other Comments	Basidiospores are the result of sexual reproduction and formed on a structure called the basidium. Basidiospores belong to the members of the Phylum Basidiomycota, which includes mushrooms, shelf fungi, rusts, and smuts.

CERCOSPORA

Natural Habitat	Parasite on higher plants, commonly causes leaf spot diseases.
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Unknown
Water Activity	Moderate –High humidity
Mode of Dissemination	Irrigation water, Insects, Rain Wind
Allergic Potential	Unknown
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Unknown
Other Comments	Includes morphologically similar spores of Cercospora, Pseudocercospora, and Septoria.

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CLADOSPORIUM	
Natural Habitat	Dead plant matter. Straw. Soil. Woody plants
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Fiberglass duct liner. Paint. Textiles. Found in high concentration in water-damaged building materials.
Water Activity	Aw 0.84-0.88
Mode of Dissemination	Air
Allergic Potential	Type I (asthma and hay fever).
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Edema. keratitis. onychomycosis. pulmonary infections. Sinusitis.
Industrial Uses	Produces 10 antigens.
Potential Toxins Produced	Cladosporin and Emodin.

CURVULARIA	
Natural Habitat	A worldwide saprophytic fungi, being isolated from dead plant material and soil.
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Paper, wood products
Free moisture required for mold growth	Unknown
Mode of Dissemination	Wind
Allergic Potential	Hay fever, asthma, allergic fungal sinusitis
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	In immunocompromised patients can cause cerebral abscess, endocarditis, mycetoma, ocular keratitis, onychomycosis, and pneumonia.

MYXOMYCETES++	
Natural Habitat	Decaying logs, Dead leaves , Dung , Lawns , Mulched flower beds, Lawns
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Rotting lumber
Free moisture required for mold growth	Unknown
Mode of Dissemination	Insects, Water, Wind
Allergic Potential	Type I
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Unknown
Industrial Uses	
Other Comments	Includes Myxomycetes, Smut, and Periconia.

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NIGROSPORA

Natural Habitat	Common on live or dead grass, seeds & soil.
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Unknown
Water Activity	Unknown
Mode of Dissemination	Forcibly projected.
Allergic Potential	Type 1 allergies (hay fever, asthma)
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Keratitis & skin lesions

RUSTS

Natural Habitat	Parasitic on cultivated and many types of plants
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Unknown- rust fungi require a living plant host for growth
Free moisture required for mold growth	Unknown
Mode of Dissemination	Wind, Forcible Ejection
Allergic Potential	Type I. (hay fever, asthma)
Potential or Opportunistic Pathogens	Unknown

STEMPHYLIUM

Natural Habitat	Dead plant material, spinach (causing a leaf spot disease), wood
Suitable Substrates in the Indoor Environment	Paper
Allergic Potential	Type I (hay fever, asthma)
Potential Opportunist or Pathogen	May cause phaeohyphomycosis
Potential Toxins Produced	Unknown
Free moisture required for mold growth	Unknown
Mode of Dissemination	Wind
Industrial Uses	None known

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5. References and Informational Links

Books

- Bioaerosols: Assessment and Control. Janet Macher, Ed., American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Cincinnati, OH 1999.
- Exposure Guidelines for Residential Indoor Air Quality. Environmental Health Directorate, Health Protection Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, 1989.
- Fungal Contamination in Public Buildings: Health Effects and Investigation Methods. Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, 2004.
- IICRC: S500 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration. 3rd Edition, Institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Certification, Vancouver, WA, 2006
- IICRC: S520 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation. 1st Edition, Institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Certification, Vancouver, WA, 2004
- Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples. 2nd Edition, American Industrial Hygiene Association, 2005.

Consumer Links

Read the full text of AIHA's "The Facts About Mold" consumer brochure.

<http://www.aiha.org/get-involved/VolunteerGroups/Documents/Biosafety/VG-FactsAbout%20MoldDecember2011.pdf>

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/molds/index.html>

CDC Mold Facts

<http://www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm>

CDC Stachybotrys - Questions and answers on Stachybotrys chartarum and other molds

<http://www.cdc.gov/mold/stachy.htm>

IOM, NAS: Clearing the Air: Asthma and Indoor Air Exposures

<https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/should-you-have-air-ducts-your-home-cleaned>

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National Library of Medicine-Mold website

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/molds.html>

California Department of Health Services (CADOHS)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHLB/IAQ/Pages/Mold.aspx>

Minnesota Department of Health

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/mold/index.html>

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/mold.page>

EPA

"Should You Have the Air Ducts in Your Home Cleaned?"

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/airduct.html>

General information about molds and actions that can be taken to clean up or prevent a mold problem.

<http://www.epa.gov/asthma/molds.html>

"A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home" - Includes basic information on mold, cleanup guidelines, and moisture and mold prevention

<http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html>

"Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings" - Information on remediation in schools and commercial property, references for potential mold and moisture remediators.

<https://www.epa.gov/mold/mold-remediation-schools-and-commercial-buildings-guide>

FEMA

"Homes That Were Flooded May Harbor Mold Problems" - Information and tips for cleaning mold.

<http://www.fema.gov/news-release/homes-were-flooded-may-harbor-mold-problems>

"Dealing With Mold & Mildew in Your Flood Damaged Home.

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/recover/fema_mold_brochure_english.pdf

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All changes in the scope of work or turnaround time requested by the client after sample acceptance must be made in writing and confirmed in writing by EMSL. If requested changes result in a change in cost the client must accept payment responsibility. In the event work is cancelled by a client, EMSL will complete work in progress and invoice for work completed to the point of cancellation notice. EMSL is not responsible for holding times that are exceeded due to such changes.

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