

# GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

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



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## Man Nearly Died from Brain Infection Caused by Mold (*Aspergillus fumigatus*)

David Erwin, 60, [almost died from a fungal infection](#) in his brain, lungs, and spine. A neurosurgeon removed a suspicious mass from his brain. The mass was not cancer, but a common fungus: *Aspergillus fumigatus*. The fungus that nearly killed him can be found inside many homes.

On October 25, 2022, the [WHO published the first-ever list of fungal priority pathogens](#), naming 19 species of fungi that pose a danger for public health. *Aspergillus* was assigned the highest priority level.

## Death of Two-Year-Old Caused by Mould in Flat (U.K.)

A coroner has said **the death of an “engaging, lively, endearing” two-year-old from prolonged exposure to mould in his family’s flat should be a “defining moment” for the UK’s housing sector.**

Awaab Ishak died in 2020, eight days after his second birthday, as a direct result of black mould in the flat he lived in.

About 450,000 homes in England have problems with condensation and mould and the verdict triggered calls from paediatric doctors for better reporting of air quality problems in homes. And England’s housing ombudsman, Richard Blakeway, said landlords must make plans to tackle the “real risk of worsening damp and mould issues” as energy bills soar.

Michael Gove, the levelling up, housing and communities secretary, said the death was “an unacceptable tragedy” and that “it beggars belief” that the chief executive of the social housing provider was still in office. But he also said the government had been too slow to toughen regulation of social housing.

Greg Fell, the vice-president of the Association of Directors of Public Health, said the verdict “tragically underscored” the “hidden risk” to public health posed by mould.

“It’s a significant threat,” he said. “We are going into a winter where people will be turning the heating down in a way that encourages more damp in our homes.”

**“I’m sure I’m not alone in having thought: how does this happen? How, in the UK in 2020, does a two-year-old child die from exposure to mould in his home?”**

...continued on page 2

See *Death of Two-Year-Old* on page 2

## Death of Two-Year-Old Caused by Mould in Flat (U.K.)—cont'd

Continued from page 1...

After a narrative conclusion was recorded at Rochdale coroner's court, lawyers for Awaab's parents read a statement in which they accused the social housing provider, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH), of doing nothing over a number of years to treat the mould problem that killed their son.

"Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, we have a message for you: stop discriminating. Stop being racist. Stop providing unfair treatment to people coming from abroad who are refugees or asylum seekers. Stop housing people in homes you know are unfit for human habitation. We were left feeling absolutely worthless at the hands of RBH."

The mould that killed Awaab was in the bathroom and kitchen of the flat in Rochdale he shared with his parents, Faisal Abdullah and Aisha Amin. Abdullah first reported the mould to RBH in 2017.

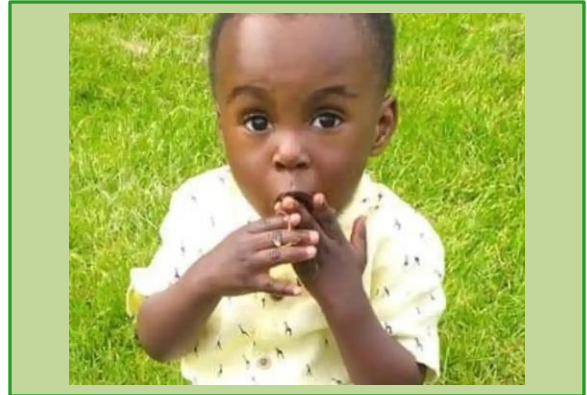
A number of things went wrong, some of them contributing to his death, the senior coroner Joanne Kearsley said.

"Awaab Ishak died as a result of a severe respiratory condition caused due to prolonged exposure to mould in his home environment," she said. "Action to treat and prevent the mould was not taken. His respiratory condition led to respiratory arrest," she said.

"The tragic death of Awaab will, and should, be a defining moment for the housing sector in terms of increasing knowledge, increasing awareness and a deepening of understanding surrounding the issue of damp and mould."

Addressing the family, Kearsley said: "I hope you know that Awaab will, I am sure, make a difference for other people."

Senior doctors called on the UK government to set up a reporting channel for renters to raise the alarm about indoor air quality problems and to help with necessary improvements.



Awaab Ishak, 2-year-old boy, died from mould in his flat. Coroner says this should be a defining moment for the UK's housing sector.

## Death of Two-Year-Old Caused by Mould in Flat (U.K.)—cont'd

"Increasing evidence suggests a rising number of families are living in poor-quality accommodation, with detrimental impacts on children's health," said Dr Camilla Kingdon, the president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. "Cold and damp housing conditions can lead to increased risk of asthma, respiratory infections, slower cognitive development, and higher risk of disability, mental health problems in children."

Kearsley said mould in properties was not particular to Rochdale, or to social housing. She supported a call for the government's decent homes standard to be strengthened to include damp and mould, and said she would be writing a report for the prevention of future deaths and sending it to government ministers.

Gareth Swarbrick, the chief executive of RBH, said in a statement he was "truly devastated about Awaab's death and the things we got wrong." Nothing could bring Awaab back, he said, but added: "We have and will continue to learn hard lessons from this."

"We didn't recognise the level of risk to a little boy's health from the mould in the family's home. We must make sure this can never happen again. Awaab's death needs to be a wake-up call for everyone in housing, social care and health."

Read the [article](#).

See *Mouldy Wiltshire flat making kids ill* on page 3

## Dad Fears Mouldy Wiltshire Flat is Making His Kids Ill (U.K.)

A father living in a mouldy flat has said something needs to be done urgently as delays are affecting his children's health.

Noorullah Hashmi lives with his young family in a housing association flat in Great Bedwyn near Marlborough.

He said there was standing water in the sitting room, as well as mouldy walls and ceilings - the mould had also spread to the family's possessions.

Housing association Aster said it had organised for repairs to take place.

It comes as an inquest in Manchester heard the death of two-year-old Awaab Ishak was directly linked to his exposure to mould in a flat.

Hashmi, originally from Afghanistan, told BBC Radio Wiltshire that in the two years since they moved into the ground floor flat, both his children, aged two and 18-months-old, have been ill with multiple chest infections.

He said that despite 27 visits from workmen, no one had been able to stop the extensive damp and mould.

"It's just delay and delay... my kids are ill from sleeping in a mouldy and damp house," he said.

**The family have video and photographs that show the floors soaked with water and mould growing up the walls in all the rooms and on the ceilings.**



Condensation runs down the windows and clothes, soft toys, furniture and mattresses were damaged by mould and have had to be thrown away.

## Dad Fears Mouldy Wiltshire Flat is Making His Kids Ill (U.K.)—cont'd

The family's GP, Dr. Angela Paddon from the village's Old School Surgery, has written to Aster to say the children have suffered multiple respiratory infections and that it is known mouldy and damp homes can make babies and children ill.

Dr. Paddon asked Aster to take this into consideration when assessing the family's housing needs.

But Hashmi said despite numerous visits by surveyors, they had not been able to give his family a dry home.

"They say one day the problem is in here...the next day they say it's in there," he said.

Hashmi said his wife worked hard to keep the small flat clean and tidy but it was impossible to clean the mould and the floors were often very wet.

Linda Orchard, who lives near the Hashmi family, said she was "very concerned" about the two young children and was trying to support the family to get help.

She said she had witnessed multiple visits by maintenance staff and contractors from Aster but that there had been no actual work done in the flat.

"I'm worried about the health of the children, because they are tiny, and they've both been very sick, and they don't look well," she said. Read the [article](#).



See *Shocking photos reveal mould epidemic* on page 4

## Shocking Photos Reveal Scale of Mould Epidemic in UK Homes

An investigation into hazardous conditions in social and privately rented homes reveals the extent of a severe public health crisis in England's housing which poses a serious threat to tenants' health.

Dozens of private renters have sent us photos and videos of severe mould and damp.

A mother of four children – two of whom have complex health needs – has also told us that she has been living in social flat plagued by leaks, mould and damp for 12 years while her housing association and local council have not acted despite a legal challenge.

Inside the air is damp and condensation is visible on the windows which Williams keeps open to ameliorate her living conditions. In every room, there is mould on the walls and surfaces.

The mother and full-time carer lies awake at night in her social housing flat where leaks regularly pour through the ceiling and put the lights out.

Her 25-year-old disabled son's bedroom is not only damp and covered in mould but the ceiling has caved in because of a leak, leaving a huge dark hole where the light fitting once was.

Poor housing conditions like these have recently made headlines following the coroner's report into the death of a two-year-old boy from Rochdale, Awaab Ishak.

**The coroner ruled that Awaab died from "prolonged exposure" to mould in the social housing flat he shared with his parents.** They had repeatedly complained to their landlord, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) and were told to "paint over" the mould.

The Housing Secretary Michael Gove has now cut RBH off from their government Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) funding until the social housing regulator is satisfied that standards have improved.

Mr. Gove told us exclusively that the housing crisis is a "public health issue."

An investigation into hazardous conditions in social and privately rented homes reveals the extent of a severe public health crisis in England's housing which poses a serious threat to tenants' health.



The coroner ruled that two-year-old Awaab died from "prolonged exposure" to mould in the social housing flat he shared with his parents.

## Shocking Photos Reveal Scale of Mould Epidemic in UK Homes (cont'd)

According to the latest English Housing Survey 3.5 million occupied homes did not meet the Decent Homes Standard in 2020; 2.2 million had at least one category one hazard – such as black mould – and 941,000 had serious damp.

Private renters aren't faring much better than their social counterparts. Dozens of private renters have been in touch with us over the last week to share their stories of disrepair from London to Liverpool and Margate to Milton Keynes.

In March 2019, while Awaab's family and Andie battled their respective landlords over poor conditions, a long-awaited piece landmark piece of legislation became law: the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018.

**If legislation exists to ensure that homes are fit for human habitation, why are people still living in such squalid conditions?**

"For every home, we have made safe, we know that there are thousands of others where households continue to suffer," he said. "But those working to make homes safe are hamstrung. Councils have powers under Housing Act 2004 to make private and housing association homes safe, but most environmental health enforcement teams are underfunded, understaffed and unsupported."

Read the [article](#).

See *High levels of CO2 in classrooms* on page 5



## Higher than Normal Levels of CO2 Detected in Classrooms

Is the indoor air quality at your child's school safe? That's what a group of Wake County parents want to know after they say they didn't get answers from the district so they're taking matters into their own hands.

Jamie Erickson says, "These kids need good indoor air quality. They all deserve indoor air quality." However, the levels of carbon dioxide inside Erickson and Kim Lambert's kids' classroom at Scott's Ridge Elementary School is a concern after the school tested the indoor air quality after a parent raised concerns about a mildew smell. "There was a report done at that time that showed kind of higher-than-normal CO2 levels, higher than recommended CO2 levels," Erickson added.

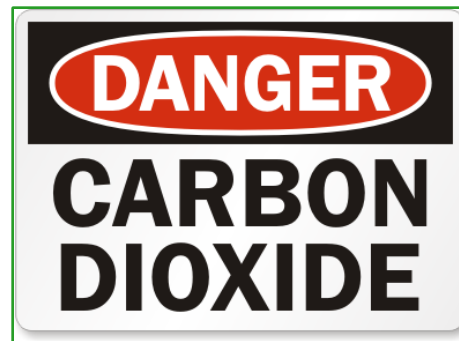
That testing was done in August, and the principal of Scott's Ridge Elementary did share the test results which show in the room tested, the CO2 level was 2195 parts per million. The CDC says a target benchmark for good ventilation is CO2 readings below 800 ppm.

Kim Lambert says, "I mean high CO2 levels that really affects your concentration, and with children that have already been affected by the whole COVID scare, been out of school when homeschooled, they're already behind.

We don't want this also affecting them, pushing them even more behind" **Both parents wanted more answers about the guidelines and policies in place when it comes to indoor air quality from school administrations and when they didn't get them, took matters into their own hands and sent in a portable carbon dioxide detector into their child's classroom.**

Erickson says, "I sent it in with my son and put it in the mesh side pocket of his backpack. In the backpack, what remained in the room the whole day. Those numbers confirmed what the professional report done by the district said about CO2 levels."

By this chart, you can see how the carbon dioxide levels go up and down throughout the day. At 9:00 am the reading shows the CO2 levels around 800ppm but then climbs throughout the day, reaching the highest level of CO2 around 2:00 pm at 3200ppm.



## Higher than Normal Levels of CO2 Detected in Classrooms (cont'd)

"We know that indoor air quality matters to our kids, not just for COVID but for their learning and well-being broadly. So, we hope we get some answers, and we hope we learn more about what's happening and what they're doing because we're not getting information about that right now," Erickson tells ABC11.

These parents at Scott's Ridge Elementary are not alone. The NC Alliance for School Equity and Safety Group also sent and continued to send portable carbon dioxide monitor's into different classrooms throughout Wake County. Kira Kroboth says, "Some of the readings that I've seen I would be appalled if that was my child's classroom." Kroboth shares the CO2 readings of each school on the group's website and acknowledges their testing methods are not scientific.

"All I want is for the district to conduct their own audit, get their own data and release it to the parents along with the plan of where they're going to address any issues," Kroboth said.

As for Wake County Schools, a representative said, "We are committed to quickly responding to all IAQ concerns and issues. A healthy environment for our students and staff is a key part of our operational mission. The CDC's potential target benchmarks cited are not standalone recommendations. Instead, they are included in a layered approach to reducing COVID-19 transmission along with other suggestions. In addition, a variety of organizations and government bodies have issued various guidance on the topic related to COVID and air quality. You can read a summary of how CO2 relates to Infection Risk Transmission and Indoor Air Quality [here](#).

Read the [article](#).

See *School District Plans to Improve IAQ* on page 6

## New Report Analyzes School District Plans to Improve Air Quality and Facility Conditions

On November 14, the Center for Green Schools published [new findings](#) about how school districts are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically as it relates to investing federal relief funds to manage air quality and upgrade facilities.

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ARP-ESSER or ESSER III) represented an unprecedented federal investment in K–12 schools and a lifeline over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the case of school facilities. The funding offered school systems a chance to address a critical backlog of deferred maintenance, needed equipment and infrastructure repairs, as well as upgrades to outdated building systems to improve health, air quality and comfort.

The report looks at how school districts across the country plan to invest that federal aid, with a focus on planned funding for large-scale facilities related work. The analysis includes qualitative interviews with three school district facilities personnel and a quantitative analysis based on a data set of 5,004 school districts' ESSER-III spending plans by the Burbio data service. The data set contained information from school districts from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, representing approximately 74% of public school students and roughly \$83.1 billion in ESSER III funds. Access to the data set was generously supported by Carrier.

Major findings include:

- Although staff capacity, inflation and supply chain shortages are affecting infrastructure projects, school districts have prioritized significant ESSER III funding to support indoor air quality for their students and staff. Of all the funding categories tracked in the data set, air filtration/HVAC was the second highest category for district planned spending, at \$5.5 billion, just behind staffing/teachers/academic interventionists/guidance counselors.

Our analysis shows that nearly 50% of the school districts in the data set are committing at least some of their federal ESSER III aid to facilities projects to:

- Upgrade or improve air filtration/HVAC;
- Repair systems to reduce the risk of illness;
- Replace windows, doors and roofs; and/or
- Install UV lights for disease mitigation.

## New Report Analyzes School District Plans to Improve Air Quality and Facility Conditions (cont'd)

- Of the 2,379 school districts that planned to spend any of the ESSER III funding on facilities, large districts planned to spend the lowest percentage (on average, 22%) and small districts planned to spend the highest percentage of their total allocation (on average, 30%).
- Small and medium-size districts (those with 20 or fewer schools) consistently reported more spending per school on facilities categories than their larger counterparts.
- In addition to filtration and HVAC improvements, in most cases, districts that planned to spend in this category also indicated plans to spend in at least one other facilities category, displaying a layered approach to addressing COVID-19 at the building infrastructure level.
- The district interviewees highlighted the importance of having substantial federal dollars to invest in costly HVAC infrastructure projects, which would otherwise be delayed or addressed in phases.
- District interviewees noted that where HVAC upgrades were made in their schools, they were able to keep energy usage and costs to a minimum compared to schools with outdated systems. Similarly, interviewees reported positive results from spending in other facilities categories to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The district interviewees noted how important the ESSER III funds have been for this type of work, but even with \$8.5 billion planned to be spent by districts on facilities, it is not nearly enough to address the \$85 billion in underinvestment in K–12 school buildings and grounds each year as reported by the [2021 State of Our Schools Report](#).

Read the [article](#).

See *New program to improve IAQ in schools* on page 7

## New Program Offers Schools 3-Step Process to Improve IAQ

To help school facility professionals identify and implement low- and no-cost measures that can make a big difference in indoor air quality (IAQ) without major capital investments, Green Seal and Healthy Schools Campaign have launched the [Healthy Green Schools & Colleges](#) program.

The first slate of program participants include Cape Elizabeth School Department, Consumnes River College, Kansas City Public Schools, University of Georgia, and West Allis-West Milwaukee School District.

The Healthy Green Schools & Colleges program was developed in partnership with recognized school facility management leaders and covers the full range of facilities management practices, including cleaning and disinfecting; integrated pest management; sustainable purchasing; HVAC and electric maintenance; IAQ testing and monitoring; training; and communication.

**“The pandemic has highlighted the importance of creating healthier indoor environments, yet many schools struggle to maintain facilities that support the health of all students and staff,” said Doug Gatlin, CEO of Green Seal. “This nationally available program addresses a critical gap by providing schools with the guidance and network to continuously improve the health and sustainability of their facilities.”**

“Unhealthy indoor air, inadequate ventilation, and chemical exposure from cleaning and maintenance routines put the health of students and staff at risk and are linked to poor concentration and test performance,” said Rochelle Davis, President and CEO of Healthy Schools Campaign.

“These conditions are disproportionately found in schools serving primarily low-income Black and Latino students, making this an important issue of equity. The Healthy Green Schools & Colleges program addresses these systemic challenges and is designed to be accessible for any school district or university that commits to providing safer, healthier indoor environments.”



## New Program Offers Schools 3-Step Process to Improve IAQ

The program offers school facility professionals a three-step process to improve IAQ and sustainability in their facilities:

1. **Assess:** Schools complete a free online self-assessment to objectively measure their performance, discover their facilities’ strengths and weaknesses, and see how many points they score toward the Healthy Green Schools & Colleges standard.
2. **Commit:** Schools commit to improving their performance by joining the Healthy Green Schools & Colleges program and gaining access to resources including guidebooks, training materials and a peer network of facility professionals on a similar journey.
3. **Improve:** Participating schools use program resources to improve their performance at their own pace. Schools that reach the top level of achievement can apply for Healthy Green Schools & Colleges certification to earn public recognition for their verified expertise in providing healthy school environments.

The Healthy Green Schools & Colleges program is available to school districts, colleges, and universities whether they are just getting started exploring environmental health and sustainability improvements or are already implementing efforts.

Read the [article](#).

## Mold Infestation Could Have Led To 5-Month-Old's Death

A metro family is heartbroken after the death of their 5-month-old. The family moved into the Magnolia Village Apartments back in March and noticed slimy drips from air vents from Day 1.

Luca's mom, Maci Smith, found him cold in his crib five months later. Two weeks ago, Luca's parents saw people wearing hazmat suits gut the neighboring unit due to a mold infestation.

Smith said they noticed a weird smell and stains the day they moved into the southwest Oklahoma City apartment complex.

"Heavy-like. Almost like an old basement that would be wet and heavy in an older house almost," Smith said. "Along the edges of our vents and everything, there's (sic) like this yellow, brown stuff that leaks down our walls."

"Like smeared, gooey on the floor," Luca's dad, Tyler Trombetta, said.

While the smell lingered, Luca developed a cough along with constant runny eyes. Three months ago, Smith took Luca to the hospital because his cough was becoming severe.

Doctors told her to keep an eye on his cough over the next few days, but after the appointment, she put Luca down for a nap he would never wake up from.

"I found him not breathing and he was cold, and he was in the same spot he always slept in for six months without a problem," Smith said. "It's hard because we don't have answers."

"Until we saw what was next door. That's added to the list," Smith said. "They came in a black van and were all wearing white suits. They told us that it was hazardous to stand on our porch while they empty that stuff out, but we're meant to live next to it. This is what we breathe every day, and you guys are going in there in (hazmat suits)."

Read the [article](#).



## Parents Concerned After Industrial Accident Takes Place on Staten Island School Grounds

One mother picked up her daughter from P.S. 4 on Staten Island and was concerned about how she was acting.

"We started doing homework, around 3:45 and her eyes started to kind of close, like she was getting tired," the woman said. "I was like, 'Is everything OK?' And she was like, 'Yeah, Mommy, I'm just tired. I want to take a shower and go to sleep.' That's not like my daughter."

She didn't think much of it until later that night.

"Around, I'd say 7:30, somebody had reached out to me in the school, you know, regarding the situation, asking if I had seen the email that the principal had sent," she said.

Parents at the elementary school received a letter from the principal Wednesday providing an update on the boiler replacement project as the building is being converted from oil to gas. The letter explains that there was a leak in the temporary outdoor boiler and, "oil was released onto the ground."

On Thursday at noon, parents received an update from the principal: "On Tuesday, I was notified that one of the valves on the temporary boiler ruptured, resulting in oil leaking onto school grounds. We changed dismissal procedures so that the situation could be addressed. Yesterday, I was notified that the rain caused some oil to seep into the basement." [Based on the test results, some classrooms were closed.] Read the [article](#).

See *Soil and air tested in cancer probe* on page 9



## Colonia High School Soil and Air Tested Again in Continuing Cancer Probe

Results are expected in a few weeks from recent soil and air testing at Colonia High School, following last month's finding of toxic chemicals linked to cancer and pesticides by a parent who conducted her own testing.

In a letter to parents last week, Superintendent of Schools Joseph Massimino said 150 soil samples were collected from locations around the perimeter of the school building during fall recess earlier this month.

In addition, environmental consultants T&M Associates were scheduled to conduct indoor air quality sampling last weekend. Massimino said samples were scheduled to be collected from classrooms, stairways, hallways, bathrooms and common areas throughout the school at 180 East St.

He added that T&M will be placing signs on school property as part of the public notification and outreach required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Site Remediation and Waste Management Program.

"The fact that sampling is being conducted should not, in and of itself, be considered a cause for concern," Massimino said in his letter. "As shared in my last correspondence, the cooperating state agencies determined that 'based on the information available at this time, there are no regulatory limitations on the use of the school building or grounds during the course of this investigation.'"

Environmental testing at Colonia High School earlier this year indicated there were no radiological hazards, although **1989 graduate Al Lupiano has created a list of former students and employees who have developed brain tumors. Lupiano's concerns stem from his, his wife and his sister, all Colonia High School grads, being diagnosed with brain tumors. His sister died with a malignant brain tumor earlier this year and her children still attend the school.**

Despite the findings, some residents continued to call for additional testing.

"I'm glad (but slightly annoyed) that we have finally convinced the State that further testing is needed," Lupiano wrote in an email.

"It should have never come to having to a concerned mom needing to covertly take her own samples to discover what we have believed all along ... something in this building has been making people sick for 50 years."

## Colonia High School Soil and Air Tested Again in Continuing Cancer Probe (cont'd)

Last month, Edyta Komorek, an environmental scientist and mother whose two children attended Colonia High School, presented Massimino and other district leaders with the results of dust and soil sampling she conducted at the school while attending a parent orientation program.

Dust collected from inside a first-floor bathroom came back positive for polychlorinated biphenyls, also known as PCBs, which have been linked to cancer in humans, and a caulk sample from outside the school and soil samples, both came back positive for PCBs. The soil sample also contained some pesticides.

Komorek, whose children transferred to another district school, hoped her findings would spur the district to conduct more research.

"NJDEP has advised the school district of the investigation and remediation requirements and understands the district to be in the process of engaging a licensed site remediation professional (LSRP). The LSRP must follow the applicable regulatory process, fully characterize the extent of soil impacts and remediate the soils as appropriate," the letter said.

"I'm glad (but slightly annoyed) that we have finally convinced the State that further testing is needed," Lupiano wrote in an email. "It should have never come to having to a concerned mom needing to covertly take her own samples to discover what we have believed all along ... something in this building has been making people sick for 50 years." Read the [article](#).

## Mold in Campus Housing (Point Loma Nazarene University)

Last October, Bree Brandon got a cold that quickly turned into a two-month-long cough, stopping only when she went home to Colorado for Thanksgiving. Her roommate in Finch experienced the same thing. As soon as they returned to Point Loma Nazarene University's campus, they got sick again.

She then realized that her cold symptoms must be attributed to her living conditions. She put in a work order, campus facilities tested for mold, and she got an email back the next day from her residential director. The mold report stated extremely high levels of mold in her dorm room.

"When we first found out we had mold, they didn't send us the mold analysis. I reached out to see the report, and that's when I found out it was actual toxic mold. Black mold," said Brandon.

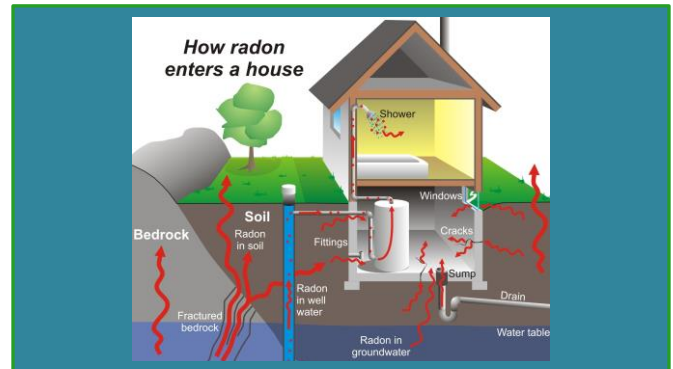
In that same week, Brandon said she experienced bumps on her side abdomen that she attributed to something called "mold skin." According to Healthline, mold skin is rash caused by an allergic reaction to mold.

The rash and the long-lasting coughs were symptoms of mold exposure. Healthline also stated that coughing, wheezing, nose stuffiness, skin rash and a sore throat can be experienced with mold exposure, especially for those who have a mold allergy or weakened immune system.

Kiera Niemeyer, third-year sociology-criminal justice minor, dealt with similar symptoms. She became increasingly sick over a long period of time when she lived in Young.

"I ended up in the ER because I could not stop choking and throwing up, and it felt like I couldn't breathe," said Niemeyer.

She also requested that her room be tested for mold; the test came back positive. She said her health issues slowly resolved after the room was cleaned. Read the [article](#).



## Brother and Sister Wage War Against Radon

Radon is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas that forms naturally from the breakdown of rocks and soil. It is a leading cause of lung cancer and according to Jill Hall, studies are ongoing for links to leukemia, etc.

Hall said the B.C. Centre for Disease Control has been educating local physicians on the rise in lung cancer in our area due to radon exposure. Smokers are at particularly high risk, and Hall said animals can suffer as well.

Jill's brother, Tony Gore, did a radon test in his five-year-old daughter's second-floor bedroom and found levels were seven-to-10 times higher than the World Health Organization (WHO) safe level of 100 becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m<sup>3</sup>).

Gore Brothers Homes, co-owned by Tony along with siblings Mark and Lee, has started testing all of their rentals in Canada, and all of their new builds will have mitigation systems.

Jill and Tony are working hard to raise awareness, and their town, Chilliwack, and the B.C. Lung Foundation are providing free radon test kits. Read the [article](#).

GIHN Website:

<https://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

GIHN Newsletters:

<https://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/GIHN-newsletters>