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## Employees Say They're Sickened By Mold In CU Building

**15 Employees Complain Of Itchy Eyes, Throat**

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**BOULDER, Colo.** -- A file room in the Woodbury Arts and Sciences Building on the University of Colorado campus was shut off to the public Thursday after mold was discovered growing in the walls and several school employees complained of symptoms.

The mold was discovered last Tuesday and 15 employees so far have complained of itchy eyes and throat, runny nose or flu-like symptoms, said Lou Mitchell, director of CU's Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

"We began noticing small amounts of mold late August and we thought we had the problem cleared up but we continued to get complaints from the people that led us to believe that the problem was bigger," Mitchell said.

When workers started looking into the problem they discovered a malfunctioning heat exchanger that caused small leaks in the building's radiators, which eventually saturated a wall in room 110 and led to growth of the mold, school officials said.

Large furniture pieces that lined the wall prevented employees from spotting the problem sooner, Mitchell said.

The 120-year-old, four-story Woodbury Arts and Sciences Building is the home of the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Resource Center and faculty and staff offices of the East Asian Languages and Civilizations department and some other arts and humanities offices.

No classes are held in the building, CU officials said.

"In fact our biggest problem is a file room with 60,000 files. A percentage of them have some contamination that we're going to have to clean," Mitchell said.

Two firms will work on cleaning and abatement of the mold. Work will begin Thursday night and continue through the weekend.

Xcel Environmental of Aurora is contracted to remove walls, clean affected areas and erect barriers to prevent spread of the mold, and Herron Enterprises Industrial Hygienists of Lakewood will monitor the air in the building to ensure all the mold is removed.

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Most of the mold is contained in the north wall of room 110 of Woodbury, which is primarily a storage area for advising records of students in the arts and sciences college. The records will be sampled and inspected for mold through HEPA processing, or High Efficiency Particulate Air, school officials said.

"Any wall in the building that is wet will be removed and disposed of during the cleaning and abatement process that we're beginning tonight to prevent spread of the mold," Mitchell said.

Although some small spots have been found beyond room 110, most of the mold caused by the leaking radiators is located in that room, he said.

A second source of mold in the basement level of Woodbury was discovered when crews began investigating the source of water in room 110 and found small areas of mold in the basement.

"The basement has been affected by water infiltrating from outside the building's foundation," Mitchell said. "The building's roof scuppers are not draining water away from the foundation wall. We will also conduct abatement in the basement and later make improvements to prevent water from entering the basement."

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