



Module 4

Answer Key

Fungus Among Us Quiz (Activity 2)

1. If mold is found in a school it should be tested immediately to determine what kind of mold is present.

Answer: B - False

Mold growth indoors should be avoided. All molds have the potential to cause adverse health effects. In most cases, if visible mold growth is present, sampling is unnecessary. In specific instances, such as cases where litigation is involved, the source(s) of the mold contamination is unclear, or health concerns are a problem, you may consider sampling as part of your site evaluation. The source of the moisture should be located and eliminated. In addition, any mold contaminated materials should be discarded or cleaned.

2. This type of mold is the most toxic.

Answer: D - None of the above

The types and severity of symptoms depend, in part, on the types of mold present, the extent of exposure, the age of the individual, and their existing sensitivities or allergies. Many types of molds exist with varying colors and textures. All molds have the potential to cause adverse health effects. The only way to identify what type of mold exists is to test. Molds produce allergens, irritants, and in some cases, toxins that may cause reactions in humans.





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3. Which of the following indicates that your school has a mold/moisture problem?

Answer: A - Mold is Visible.

Visible mold growth indoors should be avoided and is an indication of a moisture problem. Steps should be taken to eliminate the moisture source and clean-up any mold. Mold exposure is not the only indoor air quality problem that causes headaches. They can be caused by other contaminants such as formaldehyde or other chemicals. Molds can be found anywhere, indoors and outdoors. Mold spores waft through the indoor and outdoor air continually. When they land on a damp spot indoors, they may begin growing and digesting whatever they are growing on in order to survive. Mold tests taken indoors and outdoors will always give a positive result.

4. In bathrooms, be sure to install light carpeting to absorb excess water.

Answer: B - False

In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, do not install carpeting (i.e., near drinking fountains, near classroom sinks, or on concrete floors with leaks or frequent condensation). Absorbent materials such as carpeting, drywall, and insulation are more prone to mold problems.





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5. If you find mold on the school walls, you should request a custodian to paint over it.

Answer: B - False

Don't paint or caulk moldy surfaces, as this will not cure or prevent the mold from reappearing. The mold will continue to grow under the paint and paint applied over moldy surfaces is likely to peel. Surfaces must be clean and dry before paint is applied. There are mold and mildew inhibiting paints, which should be applied only after eliminating the source of moisture and cleaning and treating the wall thoroughly.

6. Use the following to clean-up mold on hard surfaces.

Answer: C - Mild Detergent and Water

Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles, that are moldy, may need to be replaced. The use of a biocide, such as chlorine bleach, is not recommended as a routine practice during mold remediation. Be sure to use the proper and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when investigating or cleaning up mold. If you choose to use biocides or disinfectants, always ventilate the area and follow label precautions.





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7. Porous materials such as ceiling tiles, books or carpet may need to be replaced if they become moldy.

Answer: A - True

Once mold growth has occurred the mold must be cleaned up and the source of moisture needs to be identified and eliminated. Porous materials such as ceiling tiles, books or carpet may need to be replaced if they become moldy and can't be cleaned because, if it can not be cleaned, mold growth will continue and potentially lead to health problems.

8. Classroom teachers, administrators, and students should carry out mold remediation.

Answer: B - False

Trained professionals should carry out mold remediation wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and using containment strategies to prevent mold spores from becoming airborne. Remediation guidelines set forth by U.S. EPA should be followed.





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Extra Credit Questions

Mold isn't harmful unless you can see it.

Answer: B - False

In some cases, indoor mold growth may not be obvious. It is possible that mold may be growing on hidden surfaces, such as the back side of dry wall, wallpaper, or paneling, the top of ceiling tiles, the underside of carpets and pads, etc. Possible locations of hidden mold can include pipe chases and utility tunnels (with leaking or condensing pipes), walls behind furniture (where condensation forms), condensate drain pans inside air handling units, porous thermal or acoustic liners inside ductwork, or roof materials above ceiling tiles (due to roof leaks or insufficient insulation).

Some building materials, such as dry wall with vinyl wallpaper over it or wood paneling, may act as vapor barriers, trapping moisture underneath their surfaces and thereby providing a moist environment where mold can grow. You may suspect hidden mold if a building smells moldy, but you cannot see the source, or if you know there has been water damage and building occupants are reporting health problems.

The Environmental Protection Agency's threshold limit values or standards for mold should be consulted when test results are determined.

Answer: B - False

Standards or Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for airborne concentrations of mold, or mold spores, have not been set. As of December 2000, there are no EPA regulations or standards for airborne mold contaminants.

