

Windjammer Environmental LLC 6710 Oxon Hill Road Suite 210 Oxon Hill, MD 20745 (888) 270-8387 info@wjenviro.com

January 13, 2021

Alex Baylor
Environmental Specialist
PGCPS Environmental Safety Office
13306 Old Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Alex.baylor@pgcps.org

Re: IAQ and Mold Assessment Report

Prince George's County Public Schools

Judith P. Hoyer ECC

Dear Mr. Baylor,

Windjammer Environmental LLC (Windjammer) was contracted to conduct a visual assessment, measure indoor air quality (IAQ) parameters and sample for mold in a limited number of areas at the Judith P. Hoyer ECC located at 2300 Belleview Avenue Cheverly, MD 20785. This assessment is intended to check on effectiveness of operations activities that are focused on preventing conditions that can lead to the development of an environment which is historically associated with an increase in reports of poor IAQ. This assessment was conducted by Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) Damien Hammond SR on January 6, 2021.

#### This assessment included:

- Measurement of temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO)
- Collection of nonviable airborne mold samples; and
- Visual assessment of select areas.

#### Methods

A TSI IAQ-Calc Model 7545 was used to measure temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO).

Air samples for non-viable airborne fungi were collected on Air-O-Cell cassettes using a Zefon Bio-Pump Plus portable sampler calibrated to collect 15 liters of air per minute (lpm). The sampling period for the all samples was five minutes.

Direct read instrumentation used were calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications prior to the start of this assessment.

All samples collected were hand delivered to and analyzed by AMA of Lanham, MD. AMA is accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) for microbial analysis and participates in the Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation Program (EMLAP).

### Guidance

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) are the only enforceable regulatory standards for indoor air quality. However, other organizations such as the American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have developed widely accepted consensus standards that can be used to assess the suitability of indoor air quality.

#### **ASHRAE Standards**

62.1-2013 and 55-2013 are consensus standards that outline acceptable practices for the design of ventilation systems in commercial and residential structures. Both documents were developed "to specify minimum ventilation rates and indoor air quality that will be acceptable to human occupants and are intended to minimize the potential for adverse health effects." The standards also consider chemical, physical, and biological contaminants and other factors that impact indoor air quality and affect occupant health and comfort.

ASHRAE 55-2013 recommends temperature and relative humidity ranges that are considered suitable for indoor air quality. Recommended ranges are as follows:

- Temperature be maintained between 67 and 82 degrees Fahrenheit (°F)
- Relative humidity to be maintained below 65%

#### Carbon Dioxide

 $CO_2$  is widely used as a surrogate gas in the assessment of indoor air quality. It is a byproduct of respiration and can be used to determine the effectiveness and/or management of building ventilation systems. Based on ASHRAE recommendations, indoor  $CO_2$  concentrations that are below 1000 parts per million (ppm) or have a differential of less than 700 ppm compared to outside concentrations are considered to be suitable.

For example, if outside CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are measured at 380 ppm, then indoor CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured up to 1080 ppm would be considered suitable.

### Carbon Monoxide

OSHA has established a PEL for CO of 35 ppm over a time weighted average (TWA) of 8 hours and a ceiling CO exposure limit of 200 ppm in a five-minute period. ASHARE has adopted the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for CO of 9 ppm when evaluating indoor air quality. In nonindustrial settings, the NAAQS standard is commonly used to assess the suitability of IAQ.

### Nonviable Airborne Fungi (Mold)

There are no set regulatory limits established for acceptable airborne fungi levels. However, indoor levels within schools and offices are generally lower than outdoor levels. The distribution of airborne species of fungi found in indoor air is expected to be similar in proportion to outside distributions. The type and concentrations of the airborne microorganisms can be used to determine if there is a potential hazard to occupants which requires action.

### **Findings**

#### **Indoor Air Quality**

Indoor air quality measurements collected were satisfactory with respect to temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and carbon monoxide (CO). Recorded indoor air quality results are summarized in the following Table.

Table 1 Indoor Air Quality Measurement Summary (Measurements Recorded on January 6, 2021)										
Measurement Location	Temperature (°F)	Relative Humidity (%)	CO <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	CO (ppm)						
Outdoors	45.7	49.2	420	0.1						
Classroom 1A	70.1	41.7	448	0.0						
Classroom 11	67.3	42.6	453	0.0						
Multipurpose room	69.4	47.0	489	0.0						
Gym	65.2	47.0	489	0.0						

ppm - parts per million

#### Non-viable Airborne Fungi Sampling

Measured total indoor airborne fungi concentrations were determined have a normal ecology and with indoor airborne fungi concentrations lower than measured total outdoor fungi concentrations at this time except in the Multipurpose room. A complete laboratory analysis report is available for viewing in Attachment A.

#### Visual Assessment

A walk-through of the hallways and a limited number of classrooms and public areas was carried out. No bathrooms, staff offices, mechanical rooms, kitchen areas or storage areas were visited. The school was not in session at the time of the inspection.

The school was free of evidence of current water intrusion or any unexpected odors. Except as noted, floors, walls and ceiling tiles observed were in acceptable condition. The housekeeping was acceptable.

### **Conclusions & Recommendations**

Indoor air quality spore trap measurements collected in all areas assessed were less than the levels measured outside the building and with the same predominate spore types found except the multipurpose room. This is an indication that the spores sampled in the rooms assessed are more likely to be originating in the outdoor environment rather than an interior source - reducing the chance of undetected overgrowth or colonization in the building. While there are no standards for airborne levels of mold, this approach of comparing indoor to outdoor, and looking at the species found, is one tool identified by organizations such as the American Industrial Hygiene Association when identifying assessment methods and improvement measurement in indoor air quality.

At this time, no other recommendations are provided.

Windjammer appreciates the opportunity to provide this indoor air quality assessment. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at (888) 270 - 8387.

Best regards,

Damien Hammond Sr, MS, CSP, CIH

President

Attachment A: Microbial Laboratory Report (Air)

# **Attachment A**



### **ASTM D7391-09 Spore Trap Analysis Report**

Chain of Custody: 624772

Client: Windjammer Environmental

Address: 6710 Oxon Hill Road

Suite 210

National Harbor, MD 20745

Damien Hammond Attention:

624772-1 AMA Sample # Client ID 210106-1JH Analyst ID TLW **Collection Apparatus** Air-O-Cell Sample Volume (L) 75

Sample Condition Acceptable **Debris Loading** 

Location Outside

Job Name: **PGCPS** Job Location: Maryland Job Number: **JHECC** P.O. Number: Not Provided

Client ID

Location

**Date Submitted:** Person Submitting: Date Analyzed: Report Date:

01/06/2021 Damien Hammond

01/12/2021 01/12/2021

AMA Sample # 624772-2 AMA Sample # 624772-3 210106-2JH Client ID 210106-3JH Analyst ID TLW Analyst ID TLW **Collection Apparatus** Air-O-Cell **Collection Apparatus** Air-O-Cell Sample Volume (L) 75 Sample Volume (L) 75 **Sample Condition** Acceptable Sample Condition Acceptable **Debris Loading** 

**Debris Loading** Location Room 11

	Raw Ct	Trav/Flds	A.S.	sp/m <sup>3</sup>	%		Raw Ct	Trav/Flds	A.S.	sp/m <sup>3</sup>	%		Raw Ct	Trav/Flds	A.S.	sp/m <sup>3</sup>	%
Alternaria						Alternaria						Alternaria					
Ascospores	3	15	53	159	11.5%	Ascospores	3	15	53	159	11.5%	Ascospores	3	15	53	159	12.5%
Basidiospores	21	15	53	1113	80.8%	Basidiospores	14	15	53	742	53.8%	Basidiospores	11	15	53	583	45.8%
Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm.						Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm.						Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm.					
♦ Chaetomium						♦ Chaetomium						♦ Chaetomium					
	1	15	53	53	3.8%		5	15	53	265	19.2%		2	15	53	106	8.3%
Curvularia	Present	15	53	<53		Curvularia						Curvularia	1	15	53	53	4.2%
♦ Penicillium / Aspergillus						Penicillium / Aspergillus	1	15	53	53	3.8%	Penicillium / Aspergillus	5	15	53	265	20.8%
Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	1	15	53	53	3.8%	Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	2	15	53	106	7.7%	Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	2	15	53	106	8.3%
♦ Ulocladium																	
Unknown						Unknown						Unknown					
Pestalotia	Present	15	53	<53		Pestalotia						Pestalotia					
Rusts						Rusts	1	15	53	53	3.8%	Rusts					
Other Colorless						Other Colorless						Other Colorless					
Pithomyces						Pithomyces						Pithomyces					
Hyphal Fragments*						Hyphal Fragments*						Hyphal Fragments*					
Total Raw Ct:	26		Total s	sp/m³:	1378	Total Raw Ct:	26	•	Total s	p/m³:	1378	Total Raw Ct:	24	1	Total s	p/m³:	1272
	Comments						Comme	nts					Commer	nts			

Room 1A





### **ASTM D7391-09 Spore Trap Analysis Report**

Chain of Custody: 624772

Client: Windjammer Environmental Address:

6710 Oxon Hill Road

Suite 210

National Harbor, MD 20745

Damien Hammond Attention:

AMA Sample # 624772-4 Client ID 210106-4JH TLW Analyst ID **Collection Apparatus** Air-O-Cell Sample Volume (L) 75 Sample Condition Acceptable

**Debris Loading** 

**PGCPS** Job Name: Job Location: Maryland Job Number: **JHECC** P.O. Number:

AMA Sample #

**Collection Apparatus** 

Sample Volume (L)

**Sample Condition** 

**Debris Loading** 

Client ID

Analyst ID

Not Provided

624772-5

Air-O-Cell

Acceptable

TLW

75

210106-5JH

**Date Submitted:** Person Submitting: Date Analyzed: Report Date:

01/06/2021 Damien Hammond 01/12/2021 01/12/2021

Raw Ct	53 1113 53	% 3.4% 72.4% 3.4%	Alternaria Ascospores Basidiospores Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm. Chaetomium Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	Raw Ct  Present  16	Trav/Flds  15  15	A.S. 53 53	sp/m³ <53 848	% 66.7% 20.8%
Alternaria  Ascospores 1 15 53  Basidiospores 21 15 53  Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm. 1 15 53  Chaetomium  Cladosporium  Curvularia  Penicillium / Aspergillus 1 15 53  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes  Stachybotrys/Memnoniella  Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia  Rusts	53 1113 53	3.4% 72.4% 3.4%	Ascospores Basidiospores Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm.  Chaetomium Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	Present 16	15 15	53 53	<53 848	66.7%
Ascospores 1 15 53  Basidiospores 21 15 53  Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm. 1 15 53  Chaetomium  Cladosporium  Curvularia  Penicillium / Aspergillus 1 15 53  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes  Stachybotrys/Memnoniella  Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia  Rusts	1113 53	72.4% 3.4%	Ascospores Basidiospores Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm.  Chaetomium Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	5	15	53	848	
Basidiospores 21 15 53 Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm. 1 15 53 Chaetomium Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus 1 15 53 Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes Stachybotrys/Memnoniella Ulknown 3 15 53 Pestalotia Rusts	1113 53	72.4% 3.4%	Basidiospores Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm.  Chaetomium Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	5	15	53	848	
Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm. 1 15 53  Chaetomium  Cladosporium  Curvularia  Penicillium / Aspergillus 1 15 53  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes Stachybotrys/Memnoniella  Ulocladium  Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia  Rusts	53	3.4%	Bipolaris/Drechslera/Helm.  Chaetomium Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes	5				
Chaetomium Cladosporium  Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus 1 15 53  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes Stachybotrys/Memnoniella Ulocladium Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia Rusts			Chaetomium Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes		15	53	265	20.8%
Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus 1 15 53  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes Stachybotrys/Memnoniella Ulocladium Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia Rusts	53	3.4%	Cladosporium Curvularia Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes		15	53	265	20.8%
Curvularia  Penicillium / Aspergillus  1 15 53  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes  Stachybotrys/Memnoniella  Ulocladium  Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia  Rusts	53	3.4%	Curvularia  Penicillium / Aspergillus  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes		15	53	265	20.8%
Penicillium / Aspergillus 1 15 53  Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes     Stachybotrys/Memnoniella     Ulocladium     Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia Rusts	53	3.4%	Penicillium / Aspergillus Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes		15	53	265	20.8%
Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes  Stachybotrys/Memnoniella  Ulocladium  Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia  Rusts	53	3.4%	Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes		15	53	265	20.8%
♦ Stachybotrys/Memnoniella			, ,					
Ulocladium  Unknown 3 15 53  Pestalotia  Rusts			A Ctachydratuus /Mayronanialla					
Unknown 3 15 53 Pestalotia Rusts			Stachybotrys/Memnoniella	1	15	53	53	4.2%
Pestalotia Rusts			♦ Ulocladium					
Rusts	159	10.3%	Unknown					
			Pestalotia					
Other Colorless 2 15 53			Rusts					
	106	6.9%	Other Colorless	1	15	53	53	4.2%
Pithomyces			Pithomyces	1	15	53	53	4.2%
Hyphal Fragments*			Hyphal Fragments*					
Total Raw Ct: 29 Total	Total sp/m <sup>3</sup> : 1537 Total Raw		Total Raw Ct:	24	7	otal s	sp/m³:	1272
Comments				Comme				





### **ASTM D7391-09 Spore Trap Analysis Report**

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Client:

Address:

Windjammer Environmental 6710 Oxon Hill Boad

Suite 210

National Harbor, MD 20745

Attention: Damien Hammond

Job Name: PGCPS
Job Location: Maryland
Job Number: JHECC
P.O. Number: Not Provided

Date Submitted: Person Submitting:

Date Analyzed:

Report Date:

01/06/2021 Damien Hammond

01/12/2021 01/12/2021

### **Spore Comparison Guide**

The criteria for these specifications are outlined, but not limited to those listed, below. Final specifications may differ from the listed criteria for certain samples. AMA Analytical Services, Inc. reserves the right to make changes to these criteria at any time without notice.

Normal ecology

Slightly above normal ecology

Moderately above normal ecology

Substantially above normal ecology

Stachybotrys / Memnoniella, and Chaetomium	Other Spores* (Control Present)	Other Spores* (No Control)
1-4 Spores: Yellow	< 10 Spores: Insignificant (no color)	< 10 Spores: Insignificant (no color)
5-9 Spores: Orange	<= Control's spore count: Green	10-20 Spores: Yellow
10+ Spores: Red	Between Control and 2x Control: Yellow	20-50 Spores: Orange
	Between 2x Control and 3x Control: Orange	50+ Spores: Red
	3x+ Control: Red	

<sup>\*</sup>No evalutation is provided for the following spore types: Other, Other Colorless, and Unknown Fungi, and Misc

Interpretation of the data contained in this report is the sole responsibility of the client or the persons who conducted the field work. There are no federal or national standards for the number of fungal spores that may be present in the indoor environment. As a general rule and guideline that is widely accepted in the indoor air quality field, the numbers and types of spores that are present in the indoor environment should be comparable to those that are present outdoors at any given time. There will always be some mold spores present in "Normal" indoor environments. The purpose of sampling and counting spores is to help determine whether an abnormal condition exists within the indoor environment and if it does, to help pinpoint the area of contamination. Spore counts should not be used as the sole determining factor of mold contamination. There are many factors that can cause anomalies in the comparison of indoor and outdoor samples due to the dynamic nature of both of those environments.

This report is provided for informational and comparative purposes only and should not be relied upon for any other purpose. Sampling techniques, possible contaminants, unrepresentative samples and other similar or dissimilar factors may affect these results. With the statistical evaluation provided, as with all statistical comparisons and analyses, false-positive and false-negative results can and do occur. AMA Analytical Services, Inc. hereby disclaims any liability for any and all direct, indirect, punitive, incidental, special or consequential damages arising out of the use or interpretation of the data contained in, or any actions taken or omitted in reliance upon, this report.





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Attention: Damien Hammond

Job Name: PGCPS
Job Location: Maryland
Job Number: JHECC

P.O. Number: Not Provided

Date Submitted: 01/06/2021

Person Submitting: Damien Hammond

Date Analyzed: 01/12/2021

 Date Analyzed:
 01/12/2021

 Report Date:
 01/12/2021

### **General Comments, Disclaimers, and Footnotes**

Analytical Method: Sample are analyzed following the instructions and guidelines outlined in ASTM 7391-09.

Sample Condition: Acceptable: The sample was collected and delivered to the our location without disturbing the material on the sampling media.

Unacceptable: 1. The sample trace (TR) has been disturbed. 2. The sample was damaged or otherwise unsuitable for analysis.

0 = No particulate matter detected; 1 = >nd-~5% Particulate Loading; 2 = ~5%-25% Particulate Loading; 3 = ~25%-75% Particulate Loading; 4 = ~75%-90% Particulate Loading; 5 = >90%

Particulate Loading

Spore Notes: Based on their small size and very few distinguishing characteristics, Aspergillus and Penicillium cannot be differentiated by non-viable sampling methods. There are other types of spores whose

morphology is similar to Aspergillus and Penicillium and cannot be differentiated by non-viable sampling methods. Examples of these similar spores are Acremonium, Paecilomyces, Wallemia,

Trichoderma, Scopulariopsis, and Gliocladium.

Smuts, Periconia and Myxomycetes are three different types of genera that have similar morphological characteristics.

Bipolaris/Dreschlera/Helm: Bipolaris / Dreschlera / Helminthosporium are three different types of genera that have smiliar morphological characteristics.

Other Colorless represents all colorless spores that are non-distinctive and unidentifiable.

Hyphal Fragments: A portion of the mycelium that becomes separated from the remainder of the thallus (vegetative body), each of which has the capacity to grow and form new individuals.

Results for hyphal fragments are in fragments/m3 and are not incorporated in the total spore concentration.

The droplet symbol (a) refers to water-intrusion indicator spores. These fungal spores, when found on indoor air samples, can be an indication of moisture sources and resultant fungal growth that

may be problematic.

**Quantification:** Analytical Sensitivity (A.S.): This is dependent on the volume of air collected, size of the trace, ocular diameter, and the amount of the trace that was analyzed.

The value of "Present" indicated in the Raw Count column represents the presence of this spore type during the preliminary exam at 400x. The Raw Count converts to a whole number if the spore

type is encountered again during the 600x-1,000x enumeration. The sp/m3concentration will be reported as less than the analytical sensitivity if "Present" is reported in the Raw Count.

Results are reported to 3 significant figures. sp/m3: Spores per cubic meter.

Uncertainty: for raw count in the range of 0-50 the SR is 0.375, 51-100 SR=0.333, 101-200 SR=0.257, >200 SR=0.245 All results are to be considered preliminary and subject to change unless signed by the Technical Director or Deputy.

Analyst(s): Tristan Ward

**Technical Director** 

Tristan Ward

This report applies only to the sample, or samples, investigated and is not necessarily indicative of the quality or condition of apparently identical or similar products. As a mutual protection to clients, the public, and these Laboratories, this report is submitted and accepted for the exclusive use of the client to whom it is addressed and upon the condition that it is not to be used, in whole or in part, in any advertising or publicity matter without prior written authorization from us. Sample types, locations, and collection protocols are based upon the information provided by the persons submitting them and, unless collected by personnel of these Laboratories, we expressly disclaim any knowledge and liability for the accuracy and completeness of this information. Residual sample material will be discarded in accordance with the appropriate regulatory guidelines, unless otherwise requested by the client.





## **MOLD SPORE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### Ascospores

Ascospores are spores formed inside an ascus (asci-plural) or sac-like cell which is contained inside a fruiting body called an ascocarp or an ascoma (ascomata-plural). An ascus typically contains a definite nuimber of ascospores, usually eight. Ascospores are unique in shape, size, and color as to the Genus/species they represent. These spores are specific to fungi classified as Ascomycetes. They are ubiquitous in nature. Many decay organic matter, others are plant or animal pathogens. They can grow indoors on damp materials. Release of ascospores are released by forcible ejection and dispersed by wind, water, animals and other agents. Health Effects: Depending on the Genera, Ascospores may be allergenic.

#### **Basidiospores**

Basidiospores are reproductive spores produced by a group of fungi called basidiomycetes. This group includes the mushrooms, shelf fungi and various other macrofungi. Basidipspores serve as the main air (wind) dispersal units for the fungi and their release is dependent upon moisture. The structure of the spore complex can develop in various manners resulting in different appearances. It is often found growing in soil, decaying plant debris, compost piles and fruit rot. Indoors, it can be found on water damaged building materials (chipboard /OSB, plywood, wallpaper, and glue) as well as on food items (dried foods, cheeses, fruits, herbs, spices, cereals). Health effects: Some basidiospores may produce toxins and can act as allergens. They have not been reported to be pathogens.

### Bip/Drech/Helminth

Bipolaris, Drechslera, and Helminthosporium are found on grasses, grains, various plants, and decaying food. They tend to grow in semi-dry environments and some species can be found indoors. Because of their microscopic similarities, these three genera are grouped together on both viable and non-viable analysis. Microscopically, the spores are cylindrical, fusiform, or club-shaped with protrusions, Health Effects: Can cause hay fever and asthma, allergic fungal sinusitis, and pathogenic sinusitis.

### Cladosporium

Cladosporium is the most common indoor and outdoor mold. The spores are wind dispersed and are often extremely abundant in outdoor air. Many species are commonly found on living and dead plant material. Indoors, they may grow on surfaces with high moisture or high humidity levels such as damp window sills, poorly ventilated bathrooms and soiled refrigerators. It produces powdery or velvety olive-green to brown or black colonies. The conidia (spores) vary depending on the species and are formed in simple or branching chains with multi-attachment points. Health Effects: Cladosporium species are rarely pathogenic to humans, but have been reported to occassionally cause sinusitis and pulmonary infections as well as infections of the skin and toenails. The airborne spores are significant allergens, and in large amounts they may severely affect asthmatics and people with respiratory diseases.

#### Curvularia

Curvularia is a ubiquitous fungus commonly found dead plant material. It is often found outside growing in soil, seeds, plant litter, and decaying plants as well as on leaves. Indoors, it is found on a variety of building materials, especially those with cellulose surfaces. Colonies are expanding with olive-green to brown or black, with pinkish gray color and woolly or hairy in texture. The conidia (spores) are large and appear curved due to expanded central cells. This feature and the presence of edge to edge septations on the conidia walls distinguishes Curvularia from Bipolaris. Health Effects: This mold is a potential allergen. Some people may experience hay fever, asthma and or allergic fungal sinusitis.





#### Memnoniella

Memnoniella is closely related Stachybotrys and they are often found growing together. Like Stachybotrys, it is a cosmopolitan fungus and commonly found in soil, plant debris as well as plants and trees. It is also cellulolytic or has the capacity to degrade cellulose and found on wet materials containing cellulose as well as other substrates. Unlike Stachybotrys, the spores form chains and not aggregated in slimy heads. Spores are spherical to sub-spherical, gray, dark brown or black in color, and smooth to rough walled. Colonies are black to blackish-green. Health Effects: Some species may produce mycotoxins with similar toxicities as some species of Stachybotrys. These mycotoxins may have the ability to infect humans and animals after ingestion, inhalation or absorption through unbroken skin.

#### Other Colorless

- "Other Colorless" are all non-distinctive, unidentifiable, colorless spores seen on spore trap samples and include all the genera that do not have distinguishing morphology to belong to any of the other defined categories."

### Penicillium/Aspergillus Like

Penicillium and Aspergillus are ubiquitous, filamentous fungi that are found in soil, decaying plant debris, compost piles, and in the air. Indoors, spores are commonly found in house dust, in water-damaged buildings (wallpaper, wallpaper glue, decaying fabrics, moist chipboards, and behind paint) as well as fruit and grains. They are the most common fungal genera, worldwide. Both produce chains of spores that are small, round to oval, colorless or slightly pigmented, and smooth to rough walled. These spores are indistinguishable between the two as well as other genera, such as Gliocladium, Trichoderma, Paecilomyces, and Scopulariopsis. They differ as to their conidiophores or fruiting bodies. While, Aspergillus spores are produced from phialides supported on conidia heads or swollen vesicles, Penicillium spores are produced on finger-like projections.

Depending on species, typical colonies of Aspergillus are initially white and later turn to either shades of green, yellow, orange, brown or black. Texture is usually velvety to cottony. Typical colonies of Penicillium, other than Penicillium marneffei (yeast-like at 37oC), grow rapidly, white in color at first, later becoming bluish green with white borders with velvety to powdery textures depending on species. Some species produce radial patterns. Health Effects: Both Aspergillus and Penicillium are potential allergens. Several species of Aspergillus (A. flavus and A. parasiticus) produce aflatoxins or natually occurring mycotoxins that are toxic and carcinogenic. These are found in contaminated foodstuff and are hazardous to consumers. Penicillium has only one known species that is pathogenic to humans (P. marneffei) that causes lethal systemic infection (Penicilliosis) in immunocompromised individuals.

#### Pestalotia

Pestalotia is considered a secondary plant pathogen. It is saprophytic or lives on dead and dying tissues. It is considered a weak parasite and infects wounds under moist conditions. The spores are multi-celled with usually three darkly pigmented center cells and clear pointed end cells. Its distinguishing feature is the two or more clear, whisker-like appendages arising from the end cell. Health Effects: No information is available regarding health effects or toxicity.

### Pithomyces

Pithomyces is a cosmopolitan, dark-walled fungus often found growing outside in soil, decaying leaves, and grasses. It is rarely found growing indoors, but will grow on paper given the right conditions. Colonies grow rapidly, cottony in texture with light to dark brownish black surface color. Spores are single, oval yellow to dark brown, multi-celled, and usually rough. One identification feature of the spores is the resemblance to barrels. Another identifying character is beak-like structures on young spores. Spores of Pithomyces chartarum are most common and are identified by distinctive tranverse septa. This species has been linked to facial eczema in sheep. Health Effects: It is a potential but not well-studied allergen or human pathogen.





#### Rusts

Rusts are of the order Uredinales. Certain species produce spores that are often reddish in color and resemble the corrosion process known as rust. This is how this group derived its common name-Rusts. The spores are airborne and can travel long distances. Some spores slightly resemble Smuts. Rusts are plant parasites and may require two or more different plant hosts to complete their life cycle. Their complex life cycle includes production of five different spore stages. Their infection rate is enhanced by wet weather. Health Effects: Rusts can cause allergen type I allergies (hay fever, asthma). No human infection and known toxins have been reported.

#### Smuts/Periconia/Myxomycetes

Smuts, Periconia, and Myxomycetes spores are grouped together due to their similar round, brown morphology. Smuts are outdoor parasitic plant pathogens. They rarely grow indoors but may grow on host plants if appropriate conditions are present. They are parasitic plant pathogens. They can be found on cereal crops, grasses, flowing plants, weed, and other fungi. They can cause allergies. Periconia are found in soils, dead herbaceous stems and leaf spots, and grasses. They have wind dispersed dry spores. Their spores are abundant in the air but it is not known if they are allergenic. Myxomycetes are found on decaying logs, stumps and dead leaves. They have wind-dispersed dry spores and wet motile (amoebic phase) spores. During favorable conditions they move about like amoebae. They form dry airborne spores when conditions are unfavorable. They are rarely found indoors. Health Effects: They may cause Type 1 allergies (hay fever, asthma). No human infections have been reported.

### Stachybotrys

Stachybotrys is known as black mold or toxic black mold. It is a worldwide, filamentous fungus that is commonly found growing on water damaged materials such as ceiling tiles, insulation, wallpaper, wood, and sheetrock. It is highly cellulolytic (has the capacity to degrade cellulose) and commonly isolated on wet materials containing cellulose, such as wallboard, jute carpet backing along with associated glues, straw baskets, and paper materials. The spores are slimy, ellipsoidal to, sub-spherical in shape, single-celled, gray to black in color, and smooth to rough walled. They usually form in clusters on the phialides. Colonies have a powdery to cottony texture and white in color at first, later turning dark gray to black. Health Effects: Certain species of Stachybotrys produce mycotoxins that may be harmful to human and animal after ingestion. They can cause allergic and asthmatic reactions in sensitive individuals.

### Unknown Fungi

"Unknown Fungi" are spores that cannot be identified under direct microscopic analysis. This includes partial spores. This category also includes spores that are hidden or hard to see during microscopic examination due to heavy presence of particulate.

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