



Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

## OSHA Imposes Costly Asbestos Violations for Two Affiliated Construction Companies

Last month, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced that two affiliated construction companies and one of its managers is facing almost \$1.8 million in fines. According to OSHA, they violated numerous health standards related to worker exposure to asbestos.

The fines are associated with work that was done at a former Illinois elementary school where the companies' employees were unaware that they were being exposed to asbestos as they removed floor tiles, insulation and other asbestos-containing materials. OSHA has cited them for 16 egregious, 9 willful and 6 serious violations.

OSHA inspectors found that they failed to warn employees, some of whom spoke only Spanish, of the danger - even though they were aware of the asbestos hazard. They also failed to ensure that workers used appropriate work methods and respirators, and to train them about the hazards of working around asbestos. In addition, OSHA reports that employees were threatened with being fired if they spoke with investigators.

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"Construction companies have an obligation to protect workers and the public from the dangers associated with asbestos exposure," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "Lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma can occur many years after exposure in some cases. At Clark Seif Clark, we offer asbestos testing and consulting services to identify and mitigate exposure risks associated with asbestos in residential, commercial and institutional properties. These services are also essential for complying with regulations, avoiding costly fines and potential litigation."

To learn more about asbestos or other environmental, health, occupational and safety testing and consulting issues, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

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## Mold in Classrooms a Problem for Some Students and Faculty as the New School Year Begins

Students in many parts of the country have already been in class for weeks, while others started the new school year right after Labor Day. Regardless of when students begin school, the indoor environmental quality of their classrooms and other facilities is an essential component for their well-being and ability to learn.

Some schools have been forced to delay the start of the school year due to mold. This was the case at Tri-Valley Elementary School in Illinois. Others have had to close specific classrooms for remediation as occurred in Colton, California. These are just a few examples out of dozens that have already taken place in just the last month.

Mold can occur in any school that has suffered water damage or has been exposed to elevated humidity levels. With the right conditions, mold can begin to grow in less than 48 hours. Mold is a known allergen, irritant, asthma trigger, and in some cases, can produce toxic substances known as mycotoxins.

Allergic reactions to mold are quite common and can be immediate or delayed. Exposure to mold, mold spores or mold fragments may cause non-sensitive individuals to become sensitive to mold, and repeated exposure has the potential to increase sensitivity. As an irritant, mold can aggravate people's eyes, skin, nose, throat and lungs of individuals whether or not they are allergic to mold.

Breathing mold may also cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP), a disease that resembles bacterial pneumonia. In addition, exposure to certain types of mold, such as *Aspergillus*, may result in opportunistic infections in students or faculty that have a weakened or suppressed immune systems are.

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**Is It Safe?**

The building science and indoor air quality professionals at Clark Seif Clark have investigated and resolved countless mold and indoor air quality issues in schools from coast to coast. Their experts utilize decades of experience and the latest monitoring and testing techniques available. They have also sponsored an educational video that includes a back to school IAQ checklist that can be seen here:



To learn more about mold, indoor air quality and environmental testing services in schools or other buildings, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com) , email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

**About Clark Seif Clark:** CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.