



# Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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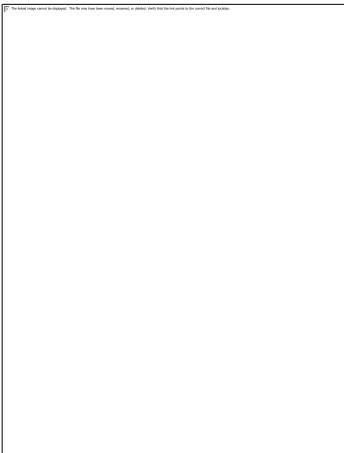


Clark Seif Clark is pleased to bring environmental, health & safety and information about building sciences to thousands of professionals each month. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

## IAQ Consulting Firm Helps Educate People about *Aspergillus*

*Aspergillus* is a genus consisting of several hundred mold species found in various climates worldwide. It is commonly found in the environment and can also sometimes be found in household dust, building materials and even in some foods.

There are numerous types of *Aspergillus*, but the more common ones include *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus terreus*, *Aspergillus nidulans* and *Aspergillus niger*. Aspergillosis is the disease caused by an infection by *Aspergillus*. There are many different kinds of aspergillosis.



Lung Infection Casued by  
Aspergillus Fungi

One kind is allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (also called ABPA), a condition where the fungus causes allergic respiratory symptoms, such as wheezing and coughing, but does not actually invade and destroy tissue. Another kind is invasive aspergillosis, a disease that usually affects people who have a deficient immune system. In this condition, the fungus invades and damages tissues in the body. Invasive aspergillosis most commonly affects the lungs, but can also cause infection in many other organs and can spread throughout the body.

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"Since *Aspergillus* is so common to our environment, people breathe in *Aspergillus* spores at background concentrations every day. For most people with a healthy immune system, *Aspergillus* exposure does not cause them harm," stated Derrick A. Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at CSC, a leading indoor air quality (IAQ) consulting firm. "Breathing in *Aspergillus* spores can lead to infection and even death in extreme cases, such as overexposure of healthy individuals to elevated concentrations of spores and/or exposure to individuals with compromised immune systems," he continued.

CSC has sponsored an educational video on *Aspergillus* and aspergillosis that can be viewed here:



Aspergillus and Aspergillosis

To learn more about IAQ in commercial, industrial, institutional and residential environments please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Mold Closes California Daycare Center

This May, the College of the Sequoias closed the school's daycare center after mold was found in up to seven areas throughout the building. Parents were contacted to pick up their children after the building was evacuated.

Close to 100 children were impacted and are now being cared for in another building on the campus. The mold was first discovered when an employee noticed what appeared to be mold growing on the wall. It was then tested and found to be *Stachybotrys*.

*Stachybotrys chartarum* is typically a greenish-black mold that can be found in properties with water damage or highly elevated humidity levels. It can grow on common materials found in buildings that contain a high cellulose and low nitrogen content. These include items such as fiberboard, gypsum board, paper, dust and lint. Growth occurs when there is moisture from water damage, excessive humidity, water leaks, condensation, water infiltration or flooding.

*Stachybotrys chartarum* has been vilified by the media, resulting in strong public perception of the existence of good molds and bad molds, dangerous black molds, and deadly toxic molds. Color has nothing to do with the potential for mold related health effects. All molds can be irritants and allergens for susceptible populations, and some molds can infect or intoxicate susceptible populations. As a result of the potential for health effects, visible mold growth is considered unacceptable in indoor environments and the airborne mold concentrations indoors should be similar to those outdoors. These criteria for an acceptable environment apply to daycare centers and other occupied spaces.

CSC recently sponsored a public outreach video on *Stachybotrys chartarum* that can be seen here:



Stachybotrys chartarum: What You Need to Know

To learn more about mold or other environmental and indoor air quality (IAQ) services 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.