



# 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.

## California School District Battles Mold Problems Again

Recently, *The Record* published an article about mold being discovered in another California school campus. According to the article, the Washington School Development Center for the Handicapped was recently found to have high airborne levels of mold. The building is part of the Lodi Unified School District.



IAQ in Schools

The article states that this is the third school building this year to experience mold problems in the district. There have also been other costly mold remediation projects, costing millions of dollars, during the previous several years.

Due to the struggling economy in many parts of the country, countless school districts have witnessed their maintenance budgets being slashed as state and local budgets get squeezed. The resulting postponement, or elimination of preventative maintenance (PM) and capital projects, can turn avoidable or minor IAQ issues into significant and costly problems.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Poor indoor air quality (IAQ) can cause illness requiring absence from school, and can cause acute health symptoms that decrease performance while at school. In addition, recent data suggest that poor IAQ can reduce a person's ability to perform specific mental tasks requiring concentration, calculation, or

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memory."

One of the leading mold consulting firms, Clark Seif Clark, has extensive experience working with school districts to prevent and resolve IAQ problems due to mold and other contaminants. The company has recently sponsored a video about the health effects due to mold exposure. It can be seen below:



Health Effects of Mold Exposure

To learn more about how Clark Seif Clark can help with mold, indoor air quality (IAQ), and health and safety projects, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak Reported at Las Vegas Resort

This summer, Reuters reported that a 4,000 room hotel and casino has been linked to an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease or legionellosis. It was reported that several recent guests have been diagnosed and treated for the illness. According to local health district representative there have been 6 cases of the illness linked to the hotel since 2009.

Legionnaires' disease is caused by *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria. The transmission of Legionella occurs via aerosols, when mists containing the viable bacteria are inhaled. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports, "Each

year, between 8,000 and 18,000 people are hospitalized with Legionnaires' disease in the U.S. However, many infections are not diagnosed or reported, so this number may be higher." Death can result in 5% to 30% of those infected according to some reports.

"*Legionella* is found naturally in the environment. When water systems aren't properly maintained, dangerous concentrations of the bacteria can proliferate." reported Derrick A. Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at Clark Seif Clark, a leading provider of indoor air quality and environmental testing services. "The bacteria thrive in warm water, so buildings with hot tubs, cooling towers, evaporative coolers, fountains or large plumbing systems can harbor the bacteria. Proactive water testing can help identify if the bacteria is present. If elevated concentrations are detected, relatively simple response actions can avert perilous outbreaks, costly business interruption, exaggerated bad press and expensive legal quagmires. Legionnaires' disease infections can result in death, so it is imperative to monitor and control the concentrations and exposure pathways of this common threat to the public."

CSC has sponsored an educational video about the risks associated with *Legionella* that can be seen below:



Legionnaires' Disease: What You Need to Know

To learn more about how Clark Seif Clark can test for *Legionella* in the water at your facility or assist you with other indoor air quality (IAQ), industrial hygiene, environmental, and health and safety projects, 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.