



**To:** University of Maryland Faculty and Staff  
**From:** Office of the Provost, Division of Student Affairs, Division of Administration & Finance  
**Date:** September 25, 2018  
**Subject:** Important Information for Faculty & Staff: Mold Remediation on Campus

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Dear University of Maryland faculty and staff,

Many of you may already be aware that there have been **reports** of mold on our campus, particularly affecting some of our residence halls. Our area has seen higher than average relative humidity levels outside due to heavy rains and higher than usual temperatures over the past few weeks. These have in turn increased humidity levels inside buildings resulting in a sustained high moisture level.

We are working across departments to take all appropriate measures to ensure a safe learning, working and living environment for our campus community.

**We ask that all faculty and staff please read the following important information regarding this current situation:**

- Several residence halls, particularly Elkton Hall, have been the most affected by this **ongoing situation**. Students in Elkton Hall are being temporarily housed in local hotels over the next several weeks so that thorough and expedient remediation in the building may occur. Remediation specialists also continue to respond to and treat all new requests. **If you have students in your classes who are affected by this disruption, we ask that you give them every consideration for academic accommodation during this period.** In addition, some students may be experiencing adverse health effects, in which case they should be referred to the University Health Center or other medical care facilities. Please be understanding of the disruption to students' schedules and their ability to focus on their studies during this time.
- **There are some simple tips you can follow to help prevent mold in your buildings and workspaces.** Uncontrolled moisture and environmental particulates can enter offices and buildings through open windows. Keep windows closed, particularly during periods of high humidity and rain. If your office air is stagnant and/or humid, report these conditions as soon as possible to the Customer Response Center at **301.405.2222** for response by building personnel. If you are concerned about indoor air quality in your work place, please refer to the following fact sheets from the Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk: **Indoor Air Quality Fact Sheet** and **Mold Fact Sheet**.
- **We have hired a third party consulting firm, Building Dynamics, to review Residential Facilities standard operating procedures in response to mold.** In addition, they will be evaluating the building systems at Elkton Hall to help to determine the root cause of these issues.
- It is the time of year when there is an increase in cold and flu symptoms. It is often hard to distinguish these symptoms from those caused by mold, which can include nose and throat irritation, congestion and cough. More severe symptoms may include wheezing or shortness of breath. Though there is no test for mold exposure, **if you are concerned or are feeling unwell, you should consider consulting your doctor or the University Health Center.**

We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during this time. A special thank you to staff in the Departments of Resident Life, Residential Facilities, and Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk for their expedient and professional work over the past several weeks to address this issue as quickly as possible.

