

On Wed, Sep 19, 2018 at 12:25 PM Residential Facilities <resfacilities@umd.edu> wrote:

Dear Elkton Hall residents,

Over the past few days, we have received several reports from Elkton Hall residents about mold developing on furniture and other surfaces in their bedrooms. Please be assured that our staff are working quickly to address these concerns. The significant rain and high humidity in our area in recent days are exacerbating these issues. We have provided some answers to frequently asked questions below.

#### **What is the University doing to help combat the moisture?**

Elkton Hall has built-in dehumidifiers in each hallway on floors five through eight to help remove moisture from the building. Last week we also added temporary dehumidifiers to each wing to further assist with drawing moisture out of the air and the building. We have also adjusted the ventilation systems which may have been drawing in outside humid air. We are assessing and addressing reports from residents as we receive them.

#### **Why might I find mold in my room?**

Mold spores from outside naturally permeate indoor environments. The growth of mold in an indoor environment requires three basic elements: food, water, and climate. The biggest contributing factor for mold to grow inside buildings is moisture. Due to the heavy rains and higher than usual temperatures over the past few weeks, our area has seen higher than average relative humidity levels outside, which have in turn increased the humidity levels inside the buildings - the result is a sustained high moisture level in the building.

#### **What can residents do to help?**

The most important things that you can do to help with this situation are:

1. Help us keep extra moisture out of the building. Make sure your bedroom windows and windows in bathrooms, lounges and stairwells are closed as much as possible, particularly during periods of rain or high humidity outside. Fans in open windows on humid days will make the problem worse.
2. Make sure that there are at least 12 inches of space in front of the fan coil unit in your room so that the air can flow freely into and out of the unit.
3. If you are comfortable doing it, keep your door open *when you're in the room* so the dehumidified corridor air enters your room.

***If you find mold on furniture, closet doors, or other porous surfaces in your bedroom, please let us know as soon as possible by calling our 24-Hour Service Center at 301-314-9675.***

#### **Additional Resources**

Below are links to a UMD fact sheet and documents produced by the EPA and OSHA which you may find useful:

- [UMD Mold Fact Sheet](#)
- EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/mold/mold-testing-or-sampling>
- OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3691.pdf>

Individuals with specific health concerns are encouraged to discuss those concerns with their physician or the University Health Center.

Thank you for your patience as we address these issues. Please feel free to reply to this email, or call us at 301-314-3486 if you have additional questions.

-The Departments of Resident Life and Residential Facilities

-Kelly

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