



Monomoy Regional Middle School Air Quality Testing Report

Reason for Testing: Staff Concerns

Date of Testing: September 2, 2021

Description: Visual test and surface tests of science labs.

Conducted By: Marina Brock, Barnstable County

Summary of Findings: Cladosporium found on seat of an upholstered chair and in small area on floor next to wall.

District Response: Saprophytic fungi (Rhizopus) found on carpet.

Enhanced cleaning and decluttering of room.



Richard Travers <rtravers@monomoy.edu>

Monomoy Middle School Classroom Assessment

4 messages

marina.brock2@verizon.net <marina.brock2@verizon.net>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 8:44 AM

To: "Travers, Rick" <rtravers@monomoy.edu>

Good morning, Rick.

Thank you for allowing me to assist in a recent request to conduct a classroom assessment before the opening of the school year.

We evaluated a natural science lab at your regional middle school on Thursday, September 2, and conducted a visual mold assessment. The center desk and seating area were visible free of any mold. We assessed the storage room and found some spotty mold colonies on the seat of an upholstered chair. Mold tape samples were taken for microscopic assessment.

We found a small area on the floor against the vinyl wall base molding and mold colony growth in the base of several beakers that had not been cleaned. I obtained a tape sample from every area that could be visually identified.

1). The mold identified in the classroom center, the storeroom area, and on the floor was all Cladosporium.

See below.

"Cladosporium is a genus of fungi including some of the most common indoor and outdoor molds. It is known as the "King of Molds." Species produce olive-green to brown or black colonies and have dark-pigmented conidia formed in simple or branching chains. Many species of Cladosporium are commonly found on living and dead plant material. Some species are plant pathogens, and others parasitize other fungi. Cladosporium spores are wind-dispersed, and they are often extremely abundant in outdoor air. Indoors Cladosporium species may grow on surfaces when moisture is present. They are rarely pathogenic to humans."

I find this mold EVERYWHERE on Cape Cod, and it is one of the top three molds identified in our area.

I think its spores could be coming from open windows and ambient spore wind distribution, which at this time of year is at some of its highest seasonal levels. It could also be coming from the residual plant and soil materials present in the classroom.

In my opinion, the scant level of spores identified in the classroom would not contribute to adverse health reactions. However, if someone had a reaction associated with this sparse level, they would be negatively reacting to the exponentially larger levels of spores circulating seasonally everywhere in outside air.

In general, this classroom would benefit from a reduction of unnecessary classroom materials to facilitate easier cleaning. In addition, cleaning used and dirty equipment and enclosing materials, especially before summer break, would improve the ability of your facility and maintenance staff to deep clean before the start of school. Finally, shared responsibility in

the cleanliness of any classroom environment (between teacher, student, and staff) will only facilitate a higher quality environment for all.

In the other surveyed classroom, the mold on the carpet was a type of saprophytic fungi (Rhizopus) found in various organic substances, including fruits and vegetables, jellies, syrups, bread, and peanuts. I suspect this mold was caused by residual food and beverages spilled on the carpet during in-classroom eating activities and was activated (as it is naturally done) with the seasonal heat and humidity. I would not anticipate it to be harmful to any occupant, and eliminating eating and drinking in classrooms, especially ones with carpets that cannot be quickly and deeply cleaned, would essentially eliminate the problem.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Respectfully,

Marina

Marina M. Brock, MS, GSP, RS

Representing:

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Travers, Rick <rtravers@monomoy.edu>
To: marina Brock <marina.brock2@verizon.net>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 1:15 PM

Hi Marina. Thank you for always being there for us here in the MRSD. Your knowledge and commitment is second to none and we so appreciate you. I will share your email with our Principal and Superintendent. Please do be in touch concerning the other non related items that we spoke about. I will assist in any way possible. Have a nice weekend!

[Quoted text hidden]

Travers, Rick <rtravers@monomoy.edu>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 1:18 PM

12/12/24, 11:38 AM

Monomoy Regional School District Mail - Monomoy Middle School Classroom Assessment

To: "O'Shea, Adam" <aoshea@monomoy.edu>

Cc: Scott Carpenter <scarpenter@monomoy.edu>, Ryanna Caivano <rcaivano@monomoy.edu>

Here is the assessment.

[Quoted text hidden]

MARINA BROCK <marina.brock2@verizon.net>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 8:43 PM

To: "Travers, Rick" <rtravers@monomoy.edu>

Thank you, I always enjoy working with you and your staff. Reach out anytime I can help.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2021, at 1:15 PM, Travers, Rick <rtravers@monomoy.edu> wrote:

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