



## Health Department

505 Broadway Street, Suite 372  
Baraboo, WI 53913

Telephone: (608) 355- 3290 Fax: (608)355-4329



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### **Flood Related Mold Prevention and Cleanup:**

#### **People at Greatest Risk from Mold**

People with asthma, allergies or other breathing conditions may be more sensitive to mold. People with immune suppression (such as people with HIV infection, cancer patients taking chemotherapy, and people who have received an organ transplant) are more susceptible to mold infections.

#### **Possible Health Effects of Mold Exposures**

People who are sensitive to mold may experience stuffy nose, irritated eyes, wheezing, or skin irritation. People allergic to mold may have difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath. People with weakened immune systems and with chronic lung diseases, such as obstructive lung disease, may develop mold infections in their lungs. If you or your family members have health problems after exposure to mold, contact your doctor or other health care provider.

#### **Recognizing Mold**

You may recognize mold by:

- Sight (Are the walls and ceiling discolored, or do they show signs of mold growth or water damage?)
- Smell (Do you smell a bad odor, such as a musty, earthy smell or a foul stench?)

#### **Safely Preventing Mold Growth**

Clean up and dry out building quickly (within 24 to 48 hours). Open doors and windows. Use fans to dry out the building.

Follow These Steps:

- I. Drain
- II. Remove Damaged Material
- III. Clean
- IV. Disinfect
- V. Ventilate

- Empty all flooded areas, including basement, of standing water using sump pumps, wet vacs, mop and bucket.
- Remove all water-damaged carpet and wall material and any material infested with mold and mildew.
- Scrub the affected area clean with a non-ammonia soap or commercial cleaner in hot water. **Never mix ammonia with bleach!!**
- Wearing rubber gloves, prepare a 10% bleach solution of 1 ½ cup of household bleach per gallon of water and spray or wet the moldy surface with it to disinfect it. Let the bleach solution stand overnight to ensure that all mold is killed.
- Run a dehumidifier to remove moisture from the air and run fans to ventilate the area and dry wet surfaces.
- Consider wearing a protective N95 particulate respirator available from most local hardware stores for protection against airborne mold spores which may cause respiratory health problems for some individuals.