



## MOLD AIR SAMPLING REPORT

**St. Catherine's of Siena Parish Center  
Ithaca, NY**

**PREPARED FOR:**

St. Catherine's of Siena Church  
302 St. Catherine's Circle  
Ithaca, NY 14850

**PREPARED BY:**

Envirologic of New York, Inc.  
6950 East Genesee Street  
Fayetteville, New York 13066

**Conducted**

August 14, 2009

**Submitted**

August 24, 2009

**Envirologic Project # EL09M-5**



**August 24, 2009**

St. Catherine's of Siena  
Attn: Mr. Mike Redlin  
302 St. Catherine's Circle  
Ithaca, NY 14850

**Re: St. Catherine's Parish Center Mold Air Sampling & Analysis**

Dear Mr. Redlin:

At your request, Envirologic of New York, Inc. conducted mold air sampling of the St. Catherine's of Siena Parish Center in Ithaca, New York. Air samples were collected to be analyzed for the identification and presence of mold spores on August 14, 2009. Sampling services were performed by Mr. William Dolan, Technical Services Manager for Envirologic of New York, Inc.

### **Mold Overview**

Molds are a natural part of the environment and are found nearly everywhere outdoors, breaking down organic matter such as fallen leaves and dead trees. As they grow they reproduce by producing tiny spores that float through the air. Since molds are very common, spores are widespread in the environment and will drift indoors. If these spores land on wet or moist organic material (sheetrock, wood, ceiling ties, etc.) they will grow, producing fungal colonies that decompose the organic material to stay alive. This can cause property damage and present health problems such as asthma and allergic reactions. There is no practical way to eliminate all molds and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.

If mold is a problem, clean up the mold and get rid of excess water or moisture. Maintaining the relative humidity between 30-60% will help control mold. Mold growth does not require the presence of standing water, leaks, or floods; mold can grow when the relative humidity of the air is high. Mold can also grow in damp areas such as unvented bathrooms and kitchens, crawl spaces, utility tunnels, gym areas and locker rooms, wet foundations, leaky roof areas, and damp basements.



## **General Mold Information**

1. Potential health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma, and other respiratory complaints.
2. The way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.
3. If mold is a problem in your home or school, you must clean up the mold and eliminate sources of moisture.
4. Reduce indoor humidity (to 30-60%) to decrease mold growth by venting bathrooms, dryers, and other moisture-generating sources to the outside. Using air conditioners and dehumidifiers can also decrease humidity.
5. If a moisture problem is detected, clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.
6. If visible mold is detected, clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles may need to be removed and replaced.
7. Preventing condensation can control future mold growths: Reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (windows, piping, exterior walls, roof) by adding insulation.
8. Do not install carpeting by drinking fountains, sinks, or on concrete floors with leaks or frequent condensation.
9. Control leaks from roofs, windows, etc.

## **Observations:**

Air samples were collected from the following locations inside the Parish Center. In addition, one ambient sample was collected from the exterior of the building.

- Room 1
- Mary Boris' Office
- Crawlspace

There were no visual signs of water damage or leaks in the sampled areas, and all building materials were dry to the touch. Other areas of the building did have visible signs of water damage, likely from a roof leak. These areas were identified and discussed during a walkthrough of the building with Mr. Mike Redlin, a representative of St. Catherine's of Siena. The crawlspace, an area consisting of a dirt floor covered with plastic sheeting and cement block walls, was also observed to be dry.



### Analytical Results:

There are no federal or state regulations, standards or Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for airborne concentrations of mold, or mold spores or individual exposure limits in homes or schools. **In lieu of a mold standard, indoor air samples are compared to outdoor control (ambient) samples.** All indoor fungal spore samples had total counts below the outdoor control sample. Based on these results the presence of indoor mold growth in the locations tested *cannot be supported*. The mold species were collected via Standard Spore Trap. See Table I below for sample locations and results.

**Table I:**

SAMPLE ID	SAMPLE LOCATION	SAMPLE TYPE	SPORE COUNT
EL09M-1	Room #1	Air-O-Cell	<1
EL09M-2	Mary Boris Office	Air-O-Cell	485
EL09M-3	Crawlspace	Air-O-Cell	1009
EL09M-4	Ambient (Exterior)	Air-O-Cell	2917

The majority of the spores identified from the air samples belong to two groups of mold: **Basidiospores**, which are fungal spores from mushrooms; and **Cladosporium**, the most frequently found genus of fungi with some 500 species being identified. They are widely distributed in air and rotten organic material and frequently isolated as a contaminant on foods. **Aspergillus** was found to be present in fairly high concentration in the crawlspace, in much lower concentration in the Boris office, and much lower still in the ambient sample. These fungi exist worldwide, especially in the Northern Hemisphere. They grow in soil, decaying vegetation, and other kinds of organic matter. Only a few of these molds cause disease in humans. Most people are naturally immune and do not develop *Aspergillosis*, an *Aspergillus* related disease. Persons with compromised (defective) immune systems are at greatest risk of infection.

### Recommendations:

There appears to be little evidence of active mold growth within the building, as total spore counts are lower than outdoor counts. The high concentration of *Aspergillus* in the crawlspace as opposed to the ambient sample is likely due to the fact that this type of mold grows in dirt, and the presence of this type in the Boris office (though in much lower concentrations) may be due to the location of the building air intake. All areas appeared dry at the time of the sampling. To limit the risk of mold growth occurring, any moisture problems should be corrected as soon as possible by repairing leaks and any water-damaged building materials.



Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact our office at (315) 455-2714.

Sincerely,

**ENVIROLOGIC OF NEW YORK, INC.**

William Dolan  
Technical Services Manager



# APPENDIX A

## LABORATORY RESULTS