

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
MOLD POLICY

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

MOLD POLICY

Molds are microscopic organisms found everywhere in the environment, both indoors and outdoors. There are more than 100,000 species of mold. Mold can grow anywhere there is water damage, high humidity, or dampness, such as in bathrooms and basements. Mold spores float continually in the air around us. When they land on a moist surface indoors, they may begin to grow and digest the surface. Mold can grow on just about any substance, as long as there is moisture and oxygen available. Mold growth occurs when excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials including carpet, ceiling tiles, insulation, paper, wallboard, wood, surfaces behind wallpaper, or in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

When moldy material becomes damaged or disturbed, mold spores can be released into the air. We are all exposed to mold spores in the air we breathe on a daily basis. When present in large quantities, molds have the potential to cause adverse health effects. However, the most common types of mold are generally not hazardous to healthy individuals. People who have asthma, hay fever, or other allergies or have weakened immune systems are more likely to react to mold at some point. A very small percentage of the population can develop more serious effects, but these effects are uncommon and very rare.

It is impossible to eliminate all molds and mold spores from an indoor environment. However, moisture control, such as through preventative maintenance, repairs, or dehumidification, is the most important strategy for reducing indoor mold exposure. Providence College follows guidelines laid out in the EPA's "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings" in order to prevent, detect, and remediate mold in campus buildings. The EPA document can be viewed at:

<https://www.epa.gov/mold/mold-remediation-schools-and-commercial-buildings-guide>.