

INDOOR MOLD AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Molds are very common in buildings and can grow anywhere indoors where there is moisture, most often occurring as a result of water leaks, excessive humidity or flooding. Wet cellulose materials such as paper, wood, ceiling tiles and cardboard are very conducive to mold growth, as well as dust, paints, wallpaper, insulation, drywall, carpet, fabric and upholstery; and
- WHEREAS: Exposure to indoor mold does not always pose a serious health risk but has commonly been linked to allergic symptoms such as nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing or skin irritation. People with asthma, compromised immune systems or chronic lung diseases, such as COPD, are more at risk to develop serious to potentially fatal fungal infections, such as aspergillosis, within the lungs and sometimes spreading beyond to other organs; and
- WHEREAS: Some mold species can produce toxins, or mycotoxins, which can enter the body by ingestion of contaminated foods, inhalation of toxigenic spores and direct skin contact. Numerous symptoms and conditions have been reported as the result of inhalation of mycotoxins, including mucous membrane irritation, skin rash, nausea, immune system suppression, acute or chronic liver damage, acute or chronic central nervous system damage, endocrine effects, and cancer. Further research and study is necessary to clearly define the health effects related to most mycotoxins. The presence of mold in a building does not necessarily mean that mycotoxins are present or that they are present in large quantities. However, avoiding exposure to molds and mycotoxins is the wise course of action; and
- WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises a common sense approach to handling any indoor mold contamination and recommends the mold remediation guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency, which can be viewed, along with much more extensive information and resources about mold, online at <http://www.epa.gov/mold/index.html>. Anyone concerned with potential illness due to mold exposure should consult their physician; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2008, as INDOOR MOLD AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.