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Facts about *Stachybotrys chartarum*

What is *Stachybotrys chartarum*?

Stachybotrys chartarum is a greenish-black mold. It can grow on material with a high cellulose content, such as fiberboard, gypsum board, and paper. Growth occurs when there is moisture from water damage, water leaks, condensation, water infiltration, or flooding. Constant moisture is required for its growth.

Does *Stachybotrys chartarum* cause acute idiopathic pulmonary hemorrhage among infants?

To date, a possible association between acute idiopathic pulmonary hemorrhage among infants and *Stachybotrys chartarum* has not been proven. Further studies are needed to determine what causes acute idiopathic hemorrhage.

What if my child has acute idiopathic pulmonary hemorrhage?

Parents should ensure that their children get proper medical treatment.

Is there a test for *Stachybotrys chartarum*?

At present, no test exists that proves an association between *Stachybotrys chartarum* and particular health symptoms. Individuals with persistent symptoms should see their physician. However, if *Stachybotrys chartarum* or other molds are found in a building they should be removed.

Stachybotrys chartarum and other molds may cause health symptoms that are nonspecific. It is not necessary to determine what type of mold you may have growing in your home or other building. All molds should be treated the same with respect to potential health risks and removal.

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