

# After the Flood: Mold-Specific Resources

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In the recent past, damaging floods have occurred more frequently, sometimes in non-traditional areas, miles from coasts and riverbanks. Community residents, business owners, and healthcare facility executives are often left with the arduous job of cleaning up after floods, to include preventing, identifying, and getting rid of mold. The [ASPR TRACIE](#) team collected the following public messages, fact sheets, checklists, guidance documents, and other educational resources related to mold. We include pre-scripted (and, in some cases, already recorded) PSAs, as they are tangible and ready to implement examples of risk communication materials that can essentially be used immediately.

## I. Tip/ Fact Sheets and Checklists

California Department of Public Health. (2022). [Mold Resources](#).

This webpage provides information on the common sources of moisture that may lead to mold, health effects of mold, and other advice for occupants of water-damaged or moldy buildings. Links to related resources are provided throughout.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). [Mold Resources and Publications](#).

This webpage provides links to resources on reducing exposure to and cleaning mold after a flood.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). [Clinical Guidance for Asthma, Other Respiratory Conditions, and/or Mold Allergy After a Severe Weather Event](#).

This webpage contains information related to people with asthma and other lung conditions and how exposure to mold can exacerbate conditions.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). [Mold Clean Up Guidelines and Recommendations](#).

Individuals can learn more about what to wear and how to use bleach safely while cleaning mold from the information on this webpage.

Fairfax County (VA) Health Department. (n.d.). [Mold, Mildew and Fungi from Flooding](#). (Accessed 7/11/2024.)

This resource includes frequently asked questions related to mold following flooding. The information is aimed at preventing both diseases and injury by answering many common concerns and providing health tips.

Minnesota Department of Health. (n.d.). [Mold and Moisture](#). (Accessed 7/11/2024.)

This webpage provides information on how mold grows, health-related concerns, individuals who may be more vulnerable, and how to conduct a home investigation to test for mold.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2013). [Mold Hazards during Disaster Cleanup](#).

This two-page fact sheet contains recommendations as well as descriptions of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety and health standards. It provides information on mold and why it is hazardous, how various types of building materials can be contaminated by mold, how to remediate mold depending on the size of the area to be cleaned, and how to protect workers during remediation efforts.

Reichel, C.H. (n.d.). [Mold Removal Guidelines for Your Flooded Home](#). Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. (Accessed 7/11/2024.)

This two-page fact sheet provides guidelines and steps on how to remove mold from a home after flooding.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. (n.d.). [About Mold and Moisture](#). (Accessed 7/11/2024.)

This webpage describes what mold is and provides steps for how to eliminate and prevent it from growing in your home.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2024). [Mold](#).

This webpage includes links to fact sheets on mold and health for individuals, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders. It also provides information on related topics such as health impacts, indoor air regulations, and mold in homes, large buildings, and schools.

## **II. Public Service Announcements (PSAs), Videos, and other Media Resources**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). [Preventing Mold after a Disaster](#).

This short video provides tips on how to prevent and clean up mold after flooding disaster.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2014). [Mold Clean Up In American Sign Language Narrated English and Open-Captioned.](#)

This video is provided in American Sign Language and is narrated in English and open-captioned. It offers information on how to clean up mold after a flood, safe practice methods, products to use for cleaning, and protective clothing.

New Jersey Work Environment Council. (2013). [Safer after Sandy Public Service Announcement – 60 seconds: The Hazards of Mold after Hurricane Sandy.](#)

This PSA script provides information on what individuals should know about the hazards of mold when rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy. NOTE: This resource is related to hurricanes, but is included, as we believe it is still relevant.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2023). [Public Service Announcements about Emergencies and Disasters.](#)

This webpage includes multiple PSAs containing information for people in the hurricane affected areas. A specific PSA has been developed for dealing with mold. A 30-second audio file for the mold PSA is also provided in both English and Spanish. NOTE: This resource is related to hurricanes, but is included, as we believe it is still relevant.

### **III. Guidance Documents**

Brandt, M., Brown, C., Burkhart, J., et al. (2006). [Mold Prevention Strategies and Possible Health Effects in the Aftermath of Hurricanes and Major Floods.](#) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

This report was developed as a guide for public health officials and the general public in response to the massive flooding and the anticipated mold contamination of homes and other structures along the U.S. Gulf Coast associated with hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It provides general guidelines on how to assess the exposure of mold. NOTE: This resource is related to hurricanes, but is included, as we believe it is still relevant.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). [Remediation and Infection Control Considerations for Reopening Healthcare Facilities Closed Due to Extensive Water and Wind Damage.](#)

This website provides information intended to assist healthcare facilities with the tasks involved during clean-up and reopening after extensive water and wind damage. A section is dedicated to mold remediation and structural recovery, and provides specific steps to take during remediation efforts.

D'Andrea, C., Chew, G., Damon, S., et al. (2013). [NIEHS Disaster Recovery Mold Remediation Guidance: Health and Safety Essentials for Workers, Volunteers, and Homeowners.](#) National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training.

This guidance document was developed as a health and safety resource for workers, volunteers, and homeowners who will participate in disaster response and clean-up activities. It is designed to help individuals understand how to identify and control hazards from mold.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2001). [Recommended Best Practices for Mold Investigations in Minnesota Schools.](#)

This document is designed to assist Minnesota Public Schools staff in responding to problems related to indoor mold. Its focus is on practical, cost-effective methods to identify indoor mold problems and assess the causes.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2023). [Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings.](#)

This document provides guidelines and recommendations for the remediation/ clean-up of mold and moisture problems in schools and commercial buildings. It includes measures designed to protect the health of building occupants and those cleaning up the mold. Its use is primarily for building managers, custodians, and others who are responsible for commercial building and school maintenance.

#### **IV. Additional Resources**

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2005). [Clinician Recommendations Regarding Returning of Children to Areas Impacted by Flooding and/or Hurricanes.](#)

This document describes how children are especially vulnerable to environmental hazards, and provides a checklist of restoration action items to complete before children should return to areas impacted by flooding or hurricanes.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). [Safety Guidelines: Floodwater.](#)

The information on this webpage can help individuals protect themselves from flood water and mold inside and outside their homes and highlights health risks associated with exposure to flood water.

Education Facilities Clearinghouse. (2015). Resources on Mold Prevention and Remediation. ([Contact ASPR TRACIE](#) for document).

This document contains links and annotations to several mold-related resources, including mold in schools and workplace, mold assessments and remediation guidelines, and guidelines and tips on how to remove mold.

Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division Health Security, Preparedness, and Response Program. (2015). [Risk Communication Toolkit for Flooding](#).

This toolkit can help local health authorities develop public messaging before, during, and after a flood event. It includes information relevant to the actual event and the recovery period: key messages, talking points, sample press releases, fact sheets, links to key resources, and sample social media messages for Twitter and Facebook.

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (n.d.). [Flood Resources](#). Accessed 7/11/2024.)

This resource provides information related to recovering after a flood and is specifically geared towards children and their caregivers. NOTE: This is not a mold related resource but was forwarded to ASPR TRACIE for inclusion in this compilation.

## V. Websites

The following websites provide tools, links, and guidance related to mold and disasters that may cause mold:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Safety Guidelines: Floodwater](#).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Mold](#).
- Minnesota Department of Health. [Mold and Moisture](#).
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [Resources for Mold Remediation and Prevention](#).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Mold](#).