

Subject: Concerns About Mold in the Residence Halls

Dear Students,

As we enter the fall season at West Virginia University, many students who have moved to the state from other parts of the country may develop allergies for the first time. For those students who may be experiencing new allergies, as well as those who are frequent allergy sufferers, living in a residence hall can present a whole new set of challenges.

We want you to know that WVU's Custodial Operations team thoroughly cleans our residential spaces prior to move-in, and we maintain them throughout the semester. Occasionally, however, residence hall spaces can accumulate allergens, dust, dirt, mildew and sometimes even mold if appropriate protocols are not followed.

We encourage you to keep your space well-maintained and clean and control the climate in your room. These steps should decrease allergens and help mitigate any allergy symptoms or other situations from arising.

The University encourages residents to take care of their spaces and themselves. Resources on how you can keep your room clean and adjust to a new living environment are available on the [WVU Housing](#) website. If you feel you may be suffering from allergies or other illnesses, please contact WVU [Student Health](#) at 304-285-7200.

Concerns About Mold in the Residence Halls

Last year, WVU responded to several inquiries from students living in Summit Hall and the Evansdale Residential Complex (ERC) regarding mold concerns. WVU is committed to providing a safe learning and living environment for our students, and we take these very concerns seriously.

Each inquiry was investigated within 24 to 48 hours after a work order was submitted. And after a thorough investigation of more than 200 residential spaces in Summit Hall and the ERC last year, WVU's [Environmental Health and Safety](#) team determined these facilities were safe and did not have any significant or widespread mold issues.

Most of the time, our investigation found dirt combined with high moisture (e.g., condensation on a dusty air vent) and not mold.

In those few instances where mold or mildew was discovered, we believe it was the result of increased outside airflow in buildings as part of COVID-19 safety protocols coupled with high-humidity weather over the course of several successive days or instances where mold or mildew developed after students placed furniture in front of an air system return vent, tampered with the HVAC equipment in the room, left windows open for prolonged periods or placed wet or damp clothing or towels on the floor, bathroom or closet of the residence. We encourage students to avoid these activities.

Several students and parents once again have expressed concerns about mold in Summit Hall and the ERC this fall. And as with last year, all inspections to date have determined there are no significant or widespread mold issues in the residence halls.

The [Monongalia County Health Department](#) also recently visited and toured Summit Hall and did not find or suspect any systemic mold problems at the facility.

Students who have concerns about mold or mildew in their room should submit a [work order](#). When a work order is received, the Environmental Health and Safety team will perform a visual inspection of the residence and tests the air quality for 5-micron and 10-micron particles along with other assessments to ensure the air quality falls within standard parameters.

Students who have any general questions or concerns should contact their front desk for guidance. Students also may contact WVUhousing@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-4491.

Sincerely,

Chris MacDonald
Executive Director, Housing