Controlling Mold in Schools

- Molds are fungi that can grow on many varied substances when excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials.
- All molds have potential health effects, but some are especially toxic and can cause sinus inflammation, nose bleeds, respiratory diseases, and can irritate existing asthma symptoms and allergies. Some can even have neurotoxic, reproductive, and carcinogenic properties.
- There is no federal regulation concerning mold remediation in schools and no state policy in PA.
- Moisture and mold can enter schools and buildings through any structural weakness (like leaky pipes or windows).
- Even dead mold can cause reactions in some people, so mold must be removed, as well as killed.

Managing Mold
Visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s website to learn more about how mold management, including:
- Preventing mold
- Investigating moisture and mold problems
- Cleaning up mold and water damage
http://www.epa.gov/mold/intro.htm

What You Can Do:

Approach your school about:
- Fixing leaky plumbing and leaks in the building.
- Reducing moisture levels by increasing ventilation and dehumidifying the air.
- Performing regular maintenance on heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment.
- Keeping HVAC drip pans clean and flowing properly.
- Ventilating damp areas of the school such as janitor’s closets, shower rooms, pools, and kitchens.
- Maintaining indoor humidity below 60% (ideally 30-50%) year round.
- Cleaning surfaces and floors frequently and thoroughly, to minimize moisture.
- Retaining a custodial crew to handle small mold remediation jobs and hiring trained professionals to remove damaged materials from the school.