



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology

City Council Resolution: 21-0079R

Informational Hearing - Mold in Housing

Sponsor: Councilmember Burnett, et al

Introduced: November 15, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, the Health Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health or his designee to appear before the City Council to discuss the potential dangers of mold in housing.

Effective: Upon enactment

AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Housing and Community Development	
Housing Authority	Comments
Department of Health	Favorable
City Solicitor	Favorable

ANALYSIS

The resolution invites officials from City and State agencies to appear before the City Council to discuss the potential dangers of mold in housing, and, specifically, the current strategies to address mold in owner-occupied and rental housing, remedies tenants and homeowners in our community have when they are exposed to indoor mold, and ways regulatory efforts can be enhanced.

Mold spores enter homes through open doorways, windows, vents, and heating and air conditioning systems, and can also be carried indoors attached to clothing, shoes, and pets. Mold spores begin to grow indoors when they land somewhere with excessive moisture due to roof or plumbing leaks, flooding, or other causes. Many common building materials provide suitable conditions for mold to grow when combined with moisture. The best way to control mold growth indoors is to control moisture.

Molds can cause health problems when they grow indoors. Molds produce allergens, irritants, and in some cases, potentially toxic substances. Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash. Allergic reactions to mold are common and can be immediate or delayed. Molds can also cause asthma attacks in people with asthma who are allergic to mold. There is still uncertainty regarding the full health effects of mold and research is ongoing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s):

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home, <https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home>
- Reporting Agencies
- Resolution 21-0079R

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