
Protect your infant!



Please don't smoke



around your baby

If you have a baby less than 12 months old and live in one of the following zip codes and would like your house inspected, call (216) 368-4369:
All or most of: 44103, 44104, 44105, 44106, 44108, 44110, 44112, 44114, 44115, 44120 and 44128
Some areas of: 44113, 44122, 44127
Small parts of: 44117, 44118, 44119, 44121 and 44125

This pamphlet is a service of the:

**Cuyahoga County Board of Health
1375 Euclid Ave, Suite 524
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 443-7520**

and

**The Cleveland Health Department
1925 St. Clair Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 664-2300**

with assistance from area hospitals

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Cleveland Municipal Housing Court
(216) 664-4989

**What all new parents
need to know about:**

Pulmonary Hemosiderosis

A Disease

in Very

Young Babies

Over the past several years, there have been a number of young babies (under 6 months old), in the eastern neighborhoods of Cleveland, who have been coughing up blood due to bleeding in their lungs. Some babies have died and more babies continue to get sick. This bleeding, a disorder called Pulmonary Hemosiderosis is thought to be caused by something (maybe fungus or mold), in the babies' surroundings.

Pulmonary Hemosiderosis

Facts you should know!

What is Pulmonary Hemosiderosis?

Pulmonary Hemosiderosis is a disease which causes bleeding in the lungs.

What are the symptoms?

Coughing up blood or nose bleeds, generally in babies under 6 months of age.

What causes the bleeding?

The toxins are made by an unusual fungus or mold. When babies inhale the toxins, the blood vessels in their lungs become fragile. The weakened vessels may be bothered by cigarette smoke and start to bleed. These toxins cannot be seen in the air.

How do I know if the fungus or mold is in my house?

The fungus or mold grows only on wood or paper. (It does **NOT** grow on plastic, vinyl, concrete, or ceramic tiles). If the wood/paper gets wet and is not cleaned and

dried, the fungus may grow and spread. The fungus is black and slimy. It is **NOT** found in the green mold, which can grow on bread, or the black mold found on shower tiles (however the tiles should be kept clean also). If you have had any roof or plumbing leaks, flooding in the basement (even if the basement is not used), or sewer backup in the past year, check for a musty odor or look for the fungus in the common areas listed below.

Common areas to check

Water soaked wood, ceiling tiles, wall paneling, cardboard, unpainted plasterboard surfaces and stacks of newspapers. If these areas have been very wet, usually for longer than one week, check them out. After the areas dries, the fungus will not continue to grow; but the black dust caused by the fungus can be sucked up by the furnace blower and spread throughout the house. Be sure to check your basement for the black mold. If you do not have access to the basement, ask your landlord for assistance.

Testing for this type of fungus

In most cases, testing is not recommended. People should not live in moldy houses, so eliminating the water source and cleaning the moldy areas is usually the best approach.

How to clean up fungus growth

- All roof or plumbing leaks/flooding must be fixed right away
- All moldy surfaces should be cleaned with a household bleach (like Clorox) and water—**mix 1 cup of bleach in 1-gallon water**. Dish soap can be added to the bleach water to cut dirt and oil that can hold mold. Apply the bleach mixture on the surface with a sponge; let it sit for 15 minutes, then thoroughly dry the area. **Be sure to wear a dust mask and gloves, also open lots of windows when cleaning with bleach water. Never mix bleach and ammonia together.**
- If the area cannot be cleaned, such as wet broken ceiling tiles, or if the area is too damaged, throw them out and replace with new ones.
- Throw out any wet newspaper or cardboard.
- It may be necessary to do more clean up in the home (such as carpets, crawl spaces) if you have a bad mold problem.

For further information on this disease or clean-up procedures, please call:

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
(216) 443-7520

City of Cleveland Health Dept.
(216) 664-2300

or see the Pulmonary Hemosiderosis web page at: <http://gcr.meds.cwru.edu/stachy.htm>
