

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Mold Test Kits at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

McCook – Mold test kits are now available at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD). “We have received numerous phone calls in regards to mold testing and have found a test kit that allows you to take samples and send into a lab for testing,” explains Myra Stoney, SWNPHD Director. “Test kits are \$10.00 at our office or immunization clinics and \$13.00 by mail.”

The mold test kit has six areas for samples taken with the enclosed clear adhesive strips and three collection bags for pieces of materials with suspected or visible mold. This does not provide testing for mold air samples.

Molds are a natural part of our world and are present in and outside of our homes. Moisture is a key element in the creation of mold. “If you are seeing mold growth, the first step is to identify the water source,” shares Stoney. “Until you fix the water leakage, you will not be able to eliminate the mold. Be aware of your ventilation and humidity levels, once you clean the mold.”

Following are several tips from the Environmental Protection Agency ***Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home***:

- When water leaks or spills occur indoors ACT QUICKLY. If wet or damp materials or areas are dried 24-48 hours after a leak or spill happens, in most cases mold will not grow.
- Clean and repair roof gutters regularly.
- Make sure the ground slopes away from the building foundation, so that water does not enter or collect around the foundation.
- Keep air conditioning drip pans clean and the drain lines unobstructed and flowing properly.
- Keep indoor humidity low. If possible, keep indoor humidity below 60 percent.
- If you see condensation or moisture collecting on windows, walls or pipes – ACT QUICKLY to dry the wet surface and reduce the moisture/water source.

For more information on mold, contact Denise Garey at educate@swhealth.ne.gov or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223. The office is located at 404 West 10th Street, one block north of Arby's. You can follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth. The health department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

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