

Questions and Answers on Potential Histoplasmosis exposure at Terrace Hill:

Q: I was at Terrace Hill on Nov 29th, 2007 and had symptoms of a cold or other minor illness that went away. What should I do?

A: It is likely that those symptoms were due to something other than histoplasmosis, but might have been histoplasmosis. Almost all histoplasmosis infections go away on their own no treatment is needed since you are well now.

Q: I was at Terrace Hill on Nov 29th, 2007 and started having symptoms of histoplasmosis between 3 and 17 days later. I still have symptoms, what should I do?

A: You need to be tested for histoplasmosis, and we are providing that free of charge, please contact your local health department to arrange this testing. Meanwhile you may want to talk to your health care provider about starting treatment for histoplasmosis.

Q: I was at Terrace Hill on Nov 29th, 2007 but haven't had any symptoms or been sick. What should I do?

A: Nothing. If you were exposed to histoplasmosis on Nov. 29th, 2007 you would have become ill within about 10 (3-17) days. Thus if you have not had any symptoms yet, you will not develop illness now.

Q: I was there on another day (not Nov 29th, 2007), what should I do?

A: At this time, the investigation has not indicated that any exposure occurred on any other day. However, the investigation is continuing. Thus unless you are contacted by public health you do not need to do anything.

Q: I live nearby, walked past, or drove past Terrace Hill what should I do?

A: There is no indication that any exposure occurred outside the Terrace Hill building. Thus you should not be at any risk of having been exposed to histoplasmosis. However, as always, if you are having serious symptoms of any kind, you should contact your health care provider.

Q: I was at Terrace Hill on Nov 29th, 2007 and I have a chronic medical condition that puts me at risk for respiratory diseases. What should I do?

A: If you have now or have had respiratory symptoms after Nov 29th, 2007 please contact your health care provider to inform him/her about your potential exposure to histoplasmosis. Also, if you began

having symptoms consistent with histoplasmosis between 12/02/2007 and 12/16/2007, and are still having symptoms you can contact your local health department about having free screening test for histoplasmosis.

Q: I wasn't there on Nov 29th, 2007, but am concerned about my health/symptoms I am having. What should I do?

A: Since these symptoms most likely have nothing to do with histoplasmosis, you should contact your health care provider about your health.

Q: If your investigation finds that exposures may have occurred on other days, what are you going to do?

A: If the investigation indicates that other people may have been exposed, public health officials will immediately contact these people. At that time they will be told that our investigation indicates may have been exposed, inform them of their risk of disease, and to tell them what to do.

Q. Since bird droppings on soil are associated with histoplasmosis, should I have a bird feeder in my garden?

A: There does not appear to be any risk of histoplasmosis involved with having bird feeders in gardens. However, after handling anything contaminated with bird droppings or soil, you should wash your hands.

Q: I have bats in my attic. What should I do?

A: If you need to clean up bat droppings, make sure they are in a well ventilated area if possible. If you anticipate the cleaning of the droppings will create dust, you should wear a mask ("N95" available at hardware stores) and wet down the droppings with water before handling or sweeping to minimize the creation of dust.

Q: If I have more questions about this situation, who should I contact?

A: Contact your local health departments and/or IDPH Hot Line at 1-866-923-1089.