

NEHA NEWS

New Guide Supports Environmental Public Health Responses to Indoor Mold Concerns



Environmental public health professionals are often called on to respond to indoor mold concerns in homes, schools, workplaces, and other community settings. Whether addressing routine moisture issues or assisting communities recovering from flooding and other disasters, these situations require practical assessments, informed recommendations, and effective communication.

To support this work, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) has released *Responding to Indoor Mold Concerns: A Resource for Environmental Public Health Professionals*, a new guide designed to help practitioners respond confidently and consistently to indoor mold concerns. Developed specifically for environmental public health professionals, the guide complements existing technical guidance by providing a practical, field-oriented resource for everyday use.

Rather than serving as a comprehensive technical manual, the guide focuses on the activities environmental public health professionals most frequently perform when responding to mold concerns. The guide is organized around three core areas: 1) assessing indoor mold concerns; 2) consulting on remediation and cleanup; and 3) communicating findings and recommendations to building occupants, property owners, and other partners.

The assessment section emphasizes identifying moisture sources, evaluating water intrusion, recognizing visible mold growth, and considering building conditions that contribute to mold development. Because moisture is the underlying cause of indoor mold growth, the guide encourages practitioners to focus on identifying and addressing the conditions that allow mold to thrive.

The resource also provides practical information to support remediation discussions, including reducing indoor moisture, correcting water intrusion issues, promptly drying affected materials, and promoting safe cleanup practices. Although environ-

mental public health agencies typically do not perform remediation themselves, the guide helps professionals provide consistent, evidence-informed recommendations to those responsible for corrective actions.

Recognizing that communication is an essential component of environmental public health practice, the guide also offers strategies for discussing assessment findings, responding to common questions, and helping community members understand mold concerns and appropriate response measures.

Designed for use in residential settings as well as schools, workplaces, healthcare facilities, and disaster-affected communities, the guide brings together practical information, field tools, and references in a single guide. By translating established guidance into an accessible reference tailored to environmental public health practice, the resource supports consistent decision-making and strengthens the ability of environmental public health professionals to respond to indoor mold concerns.

Responding to Indoor Mold Concerns: A Resource for Environmental Public Health Professionals is available on our website at <https://pubs.neha.org/indoor-mold-concerns>.

NEHA Adopts Two New Policy Statements

NEHA has adopted two new policy statements that reaffirm the association's commitment to advancing environmental public health through evidence-based policy and advocacy. NEHA policy statements communicate our position on key environmental health issues and are shared with local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal policymakers, as well as environmental and public health leaders. Updated on a 5-year cycle, these statements reflect current science, emerging practice, and the evolving needs of the environmental public health workforce. The following policies were approved by our Board of Directors in May 2026.

Integrated Policy Statement on Food Safety

The new *Integrated Policy Statement on Food Safety* consolidates and updates our previous food safety policy and position statements into a single, comprehensive framework. The statement reflects current scientific evidence and national best practices while addressing the changing landscape of food production, regulation, and retail food safety. It emphasizes a coordinated, prevention-focused food safety system supported by all levels of government and industry.

Among its priorities are the adoption of the most current Food and Drug Administration *Food Code*; investment in workforce development and credentialing; improved surveillance and outbreak response; stronger regulatory capacity; inspection transparency; and collaboration among public health agencies, industry, and academic partners. By integrating multiple policy areas into a single statement, we provide a unified voice to strengthen the nation's retail food safety system and reduce the burden of food-borne illness.

Policy Statement on the Pillars of Governmental Environmental Public Health

NEHA also adopted the *Policy Statement on the Pillars of Governmental Environmental Public Health*, which supports implementing the Pillars Framework as a scalable approach to strengthening governmental environmental public health programs. The policy recognizes that many environmental public health agencies lack consistent benchmarks for staffing, resources, program scope, and performance, making it difficult to demonstrate workforce needs and advocate for sustainable funding. Drawing on research conducted by NEHA and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, the statement endorses the use of evidence-based guidelines that can be adapted to jurisdictions of different sizes and organizational structures. The policy encourages governmental agencies and policymakers to use the framework to assess programs, identify resource needs, strengthen workforce capacity, and support consistent delivery of essential environmental public health services while maintaining the flexibility needed to address local priorities.

Both policy statements are now available, along with our complete collection of policy and position statements, at www.neha.org/policies-positions.

Call for Peer Reviewers

The *Journal of Environmental Health* is seeking environmental public health professionals, researchers, educators, and subject matter experts to serve as volunteer peer reviewers. Peer reviewers play a critical role in supporting the quality, integrity, and relevance of our *Journal* by evaluating submitted manuscripts and providing constructive, evidence-based feedback to authors and editorial

staff. Through the peer-review process, reviewers help strengthen published research and practice-based articles while advancing environmental public health knowledge and practice.

We welcome reviewers with expertise across the broad scope of environmental health topics represented in our *Journal*. Areas of interest include food safety, water quality, wastewater, vector control, climate and health, environmental epidemiology, preparedness and emergency response, occupational and institutional environmental health, housing, recreational water, toxicology, environmental justice, public health policy, workforce development, data and informatics, community health, and other environmental public health practice and research areas.

Serving as a peer reviewer provides professionals with opportunities to engage with emerging research and practice issues, contribute expertise to the profession, and support the dissemination of high-quality environmental public health information. Peer reviewing can also help professionals strengthen critical review skills, expand professional networks, and remain informed about current and emerging issues affecting the field.

Reviewers are selected based on subject matter expertise and areas of professional experience. Individuals interested in serving as peer reviewers are encouraged to complete our peer reviewer application form. To apply as a *Journal* peer reviewer, complete the application form at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/wKidNNF3sM>.

Additional volunteer opportunities with NEHA are also available for professionals interested in supporting environmental public health initiatives, workforce development, and professional engagement activities across the association. To learn more about volunteering, visit www.neha.org/volunteer. 🌸



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