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Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Eric E. Whitaker, M.D., M.P.H., Director

#112030301

December 9, 2003

Mr. Leslie Shaw Sr.  
Director of Buildings & Grounds  
DeKalb Community Unit School District No. 428  
901 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
DeKalb, IL 60115-4411

RECEIVED  
DEC 16 2003  
Division of  
Environmental Health

Dear Mr. Shaw:

On December 3, 2003 Environmental Health Specialist Steve Johnson of our Rockford Regional office visited the Huntley Middle School in DeKalb, Illinois to discuss a complaint our office received regarding mold in the building. As you are aware, this complaint involves a student who frequently misses school because of asthma attacks. This letter describes our observations and recommendations.

During our visit there were no obvious indications of mold growth. There were some small water stains noted on a few ceiling tiles in the hallway. In addition it was noted that a number of rooms were carpeted.

The following recommendations concerning the situation were discussed at the time of our visit.

1. Move the student out of carpeted classrooms.
2. Move the student away from classmates who use strong perfume, who have pets or parents who smoke at home.
3. Use a HEPA vacuum to clean the carpets.
4. Identify/repair water leaks immediately and replace water-damaged materials (e.g. ceiling tiles).

We also recommend that you look at the ventilation in the school. The dampers on the unit ventilators should be set to provide an adequate amount of fresh air at all times and the units should be serviced at regular intervals.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has developed a program called *Tools for Schools*. This program is designed to assist schools in identifying and addressing indoor environmental quality issues. For information about this program or to obtain a kit, please go to <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/tools4s2.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Steve Johnson of our Rockford Regional Office at 4302 North Main Street, Rockford Illinois 61103, telephone 815/987-7511.

Sincerely,

Clayton E. Simonson, L.E.H.P.  
Acting Regional Supervisor

SJ:sj  
cc - Central Office  
- Region 1

**Improving public health, one community at a time**

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