

Student Union HVAC corrective measures Oct. 3, 2019

During an examination of the HVAC system in the Wright State University Student Union, evidence of mold and moisture were found in the ductwork of one of the 15 air handlers that service the building.

Last week, university staff observed a musty smell in the Discovery Room (E163 A and B) and reported it to Facilities Management and Services. Surface samples taken indicated that ductwork surfaces in the affected handler had elevated mold counts. Air samples observed very low mold levels when compared to outside mold levels. As a precaution, the handler has been turned off.

The health and safety of the university community, especially the occupants of the Student Union during this time, is our top priority. We understand that some in our campus community will be concerned but want you to know that we are carefully addressing the issue.

We are in the initial phase of discovering the extent of the remediation required and will provide updates on the Occupational and Employee Safety webpage: <https://www.wright.edu/facilities-management-and-campus-operations/services/occupational-and-employee-safety>

Student Union occupants will receive ongoing updates and are invited to raise their concerns and ask follow-up questions with Environmental Health and Safety and Facilities Management and Services.

Wright State University has engaged the services of an outside firm, Custer Cleaning and Restoration, LLC, for testing and execution of a remediation plan. Mold is commonly found inside and outside of structures. In an abundance of caution, the university is following the strict protocol recommended by third-party experts. The source of the mold has been identified and steps to fix the problem are under way.

Areas of the Student Union impacted could be temporarily closed during the investigation and remediation. Repairs are likely to impact space availability and/or room climates in multiple areas of the Student Union, including:

- * Discovery Room
- * Men's and women's reserve locker rooms
- * Racquetball courts
- * Billiard and ping-pong gaming area
- * Climbing wall
- * Exercise studios
- * Personal assistance station

Portable air conditioner or dehumidifier units may be staged in appropriate locations to maintain proper air quality, temperature, and humidity as necessary.

Work to fix the issue may take several weeks to complete. During this time you may notice temperature or humidity changes in some areas of the Student Union. We understand that this may be an inconvenience and we appreciate your patience.

University technicians are conducting further evaluations in additional areas of the Student Union and other buildings on campus.

Those with questions or concerns may contact me at 937-775-2797 or marjorie.markopoulos@wright.edu.

Thank you,

Marjorie Markopoulos, Ph.D., CSP
Director of Environmental Health and Safety