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## WGHP

### Health Expert: 'Worst Case of Mold Ever Seen' at Oak Ridge Elementary

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GREENSBORO N.C.

A day after Guilford County school officials said they would close Oak Ridge Elementary for the summer, a group of students' parents brought in their own expert to assess the school's unhealthiness.

Linda May is an expert on black mold, just one of the contaminants reportedly in the building.

"I've seen moldy schools, churches ... this is the most... umm... deadly environment... where students are critically ill," said May.

She's advising parents to be proactive.

"Do not send your child back into that environment," said May. "Anything that they had in that school book bag clothes books, you need to place them in a garbage bag, double bag it (and) remove it."

Friday, school officials said they will shut down Oak Ridge Elementary for the entire summer to try and find a solution to health problems experienced by faculty, staff and students.

Also on Friday, the Guilford County Health Dept. released results of a survey from those attending or working at the school.

The survey showed the five most common symptoms are headaches, dry eyes, unusual sneezing episodes, difficulty breathing or asthma attacks and nosebleeds.

Also in the survey, 72 percent of faculty members and 37 percent of parents answering for their children said the symptoms disappeared once the survey participants left the school.

"The symptoms and the magnitude of symptoms reported in this data are very troubling to us," said Nora Carr, the school's chief of staff.

After reviewing the survey, Guilford County health dept. officials have made three recommendations:



\* Clean and repair the heat, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system \* Analyze the school's dehumidification system \* Continue to fix problems identified in previous reports, which include removing carpets and repairing roof leaks

Tom Malone claims his son Hunter has black mold poisoning that has reached into the bloodstream.

"As we got to talking to other parents we found out that this was the only common link between kids who were having this problem was Oak Ridge Elementary," said Malone.

He said if the school district won't fix the problems, he'll take his children elsewhere.

"As much as I like Oak Ridge and the teachers at Oak Ridge, we'll have to drive to another school."

The school will be open for one more week, beginning Monday.

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