



December 9, 2014



DAILY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS BRIEF



Marion County Medical Multi-Agency Coordination Center

NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

No active alerts



74°

Mostly Sunny

Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. West southwest wind around 10 mph.



45°

Partly Cloudy

Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. Southwest wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.



ASTHMA INDEX

1



UV INDEX

5

## THREAT ANALYSIS

### Hospital infant pillows recalled due to mold contamination

A recent recall of mold-contaminated cushions used to support infant patients in hospital environments points to the potential dangers of this fungus in healthcare environments.

At the beginning of this month Children's Medical Ventures, a Philips Healthcare business, renewed a recall of Gel-E Donut gel pillow and Squishon 2 gel cushion products, which are used to support infants' heads or bodies in Neonatal Intensive Care Units, Pediatric Intensive Care Units and neonatal care centers. Some of these products have been found to be contaminated with common types of mold that may be transferred to patient care environments if the product's packaging is opened. Patients who come in contact with the mold are also at risk for developing fungal infections. The devices were originally recalled in May, and the company has since received a dozen new reports of contamination, including one that involved an injury. (Sources: [Food and Drug Administration](#), [Philips Healthcare](#))

Exposure to mold can exacerbate mold sensitivities and allergies and lead to severe illness in people with suppressed immune systems. The risk of mold exposure in healthcare settings goes beyond contaminated medical devices. Mold can proliferate in moist environments and be spread as an airborne pathogen. Hospital-acquired respiratory fungal infections have been associated with construction activity, contamination of air filters and air conditioning systems and lack of proper humidity control. (Sources: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#))

## ACTION STEPS

1

If your facility uses the [recalled lots](#) of Gel-E-Donut pillows and Squishon 2 cushions, discontinue their use and dispose of them immediately. View Philips' [press release](#) or contact a representative at 1-770-510-4681 or 1-770-510-4684 for next steps.

2

Maintain surveillance for fungal infections like Aspergillosis among your facility's patients and staff that could be caused by mold and follow procedures for environmental testing when indicated. (Sources: [9 News Denver](#), [BioMed Central Infectious Diseases](#))

3

Make sure maintenance staff are following best practices for preventing the growth of mold and associated infections, including cleaning humidification and filtration systems, using wet methods and HEPA vacuums to clean critical care areas, managing traffic patterns to control dust and involving infection control staff in construction and maintenance planning. (Source: [WDHS](#))

## UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY

09

No Mass Gatherings Scheduled

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