Mold

What is mold?
- Mold is the name for tiny organisms called fungi.
- There are thousands of types of mold.
- Mold can be any color.

What causes mold to grow?
- Mold spreads by spores - tiny ‘seeds’ that float through the air.
- Mold can grow anywhere there is water or moisture, such as humidity, leaks, and condensation.

How can I prevent mold?
- Use exhaust fans or open windows in areas like bathrooms.
- Dry damp walls after showering.
- Fix leaks as soon as you find them.

Does my home have mold?
- It is common to find mold in kitchens, bathrooms, basements, and around windows.
- You might see it or smell a musty odor.
- There may be mold if there is a leak or water damage.
- Call 617-534-5965 if you think there is mold.

Can mold cause health problems?
- Yes. Any type of mold can cause health problems. Asthma, allergies, and other health conditions may make you more sensitive to mold. Exposure to mold could cause:
  - mild health problems like eye irritation, runny nose, coughing, and sore throat
  - serious health problems like difficulty breathing and asthma attacks

What can I do about mold in my home?
1. **Find and stop the water.** Mold needs water to grow.
2. **Clean up the mold.**
   - Wear gloves, safety goggles, and a mask or respirator to protect yourself while cleaning.
   - DO NOT paint over mold. It will grow back.
   - To clean hard surfaces, use a disinfectant and let it dry completely.
   - Fabric items like clothing, rugs, carpet, and furniture can be professionally steam-cleaned or taken to a dry cleaner.
3. **If you can smell mold after cleaning, there is still mold.** Oftentimes, furniture, drywall, or carpets cannot be cleaned. You may have to throw out or remove the item if it is too badly damaged by water or mold.