



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION INDOOR MOLD AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Molds are very common in buildings and can grow anywhere indoors where there is moisture, most often occurring as a result of water leaks, excessive humidity or flooding. Most molds have the ability to produce mycotoxins, and exposure these mycotoxins can lead to health problems; and

WHEREAS: Exposure to indoor mold has commonly been linked to allergic symptoms such as nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing or skin irritation. People with asthma, compromised immune systems or chronic lung diseases, such as COPD, are more at risk to develop serious to potentially fatal fungal infections, such as aspergillosis, within the lungs and sometimes spreading beyond to other organs; and

WHEREAS: Mycotoxins, which can enter the body by ingestion of contaminated foods, inhalation of toxigenic spores and direct skin contact. Numerous symptoms and conditions have been reported as the result of inhalation of mycotoxins, including mucous membrane irritation, skin rash, nausea, immune system suppression, acute or chronic liver damage, acute or chronic central nervous system damage, endocrine effects and cancer. Further research and study is necessary to clearly define the health effects related to most mycotoxins. The presence of mold in a building does not necessarily mean that mycotoxins are present or that they are present in large quantities. However, avoiding exposure to molds and mycotoxins is the wisest course of action; and

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises a common sense approach to handling any indoor mold contamination and recommends the mold remediation guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency, which can be viewed, along with much more extensive information and resources about mold, online at <http://www.epa.gov/mold/index.html>. Anyone concerned with potential illness due to mold exposure should consult their physician; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2011, as INDOOR MOLD AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Ce. W. Iz.*

CHIEF OF STAFF