What’s at risk?
Airborne spores that cause no effect in some people may cause mild to severe effects in others. Persons with asthma, allergies, or weakened immune systems, and infants less than 6 months old are at increased risk, and may show more extreme reactions. At higher occupational risk are farmers, antique shop workers, greenhouse workers, or anyone occupying areas with excessive mold, or high moisture. Office workers in airtight buildings may be at risk for developing symptoms of sick building syndrome.

What are the human health impacts in New Jersey?
The population exposed to unsafe concentrations statewide is unknown, but it is estimated that hundreds of people are affected by indoor microbial air pollution each year. Incidence of severe symptoms, such as pulmonary hemorrhage, neurological effects, or death, is rare.

What are the socioeconomic impacts in New Jersey?
Indoor microbial air pollution is estimated to be responsible for 5-10% of the total costs of asthma in New Jersey, approximately $22 million to $45 million. Assuming that 10-20% of the total costs associated with sick building syndrome are attributable to indoor microbial pollution, New Jersey loses an estimated $230 to $460 million each year in direct health care costs and lost productivity.

What’s being done?
Overall, indoor air pollution is increasing, but there are no regulations or standards for maintaining indoor air quality.