

Curt,

Determining the amount of viable (live) mold in dust can be valuable to assess an indoor environment and in particular, to assess carpets for mold contamination. There are no standards or guidance documents for typical amounts of mold in settled dust. Assessing mold in dust cannot be done microscopically in most cases, due to interference by other dust particles. Therefore dust samples must be cultured in the laboratory, which takes time and cannot distinguish between mold growth within the dust (or carpets) and spores that have settled out from the air.

AQM uses criteria to interpret mold levels in dust based on many years' experience evaluating lab results and inspecting indoor environments. In our experience, typical indoor dust contains approximately 10,000 to 100,000 Colony-Forming-Units (CFU) of mold per gram of dust, with the majority of mold types common in the outdoors. Dustier environments and those with more particles from the outdoors will be in the higher range, while cleaner environments or those with mechanical filtration will often be in the lower range. A high proportion of water-damage type mold, such as *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium* and *Stachybotrys* species, can indicate an indoor source of the mold at any level of total mold in the dust, but especially at the higher levels. Levels of total mold between 100,000 and 1,000,000 CFU per gram constitute a somewhat inconclusive result in itself – these seemingly high levels could be due to a dirty or dusty environment with lots of particles from the outdoors, or could indicate an indoor issue depending on the types of mold identified. Mold growth in the carpets may not have occurred, and results may represent spores settled out from the air. Levels of total mold above 1,000,000 CFU per gram indicate a high likelihood of an indoor mold issue and likely mold growth in the carpet itself.

As for testing carpets in Johnson, Collins, Galletta Classrooms, results identified very low viable mold levels in dust and no significant levels of mold spore types of concern. Please review the results attached in this e-mail and let me know if you have any questions. Thank you and I will see you on Monday at 9.

I will try to have the final report to you on Tuesday – Wednesday. Thank you

Respectfully,

Randy Geoffroy, CMI  
President / CEO  
Air Quality Management Services, Inc.