

## **Environmental Mold-Testing for Mycotoxins in Buildings** **EnviroBionics, Inc (<https://www.envirobionics.com/>)** *(See lab website for details.)*

**Important note:** Traditional “mold-culture-plate” methods do not detect the toxic odorless mycotoxin molecules that cause mold-related health problems, so those tests have a very high false-negative rate and are very misleading for health safety purposes. Some “mold-remediators” still mistakenly rely on those tests to “verify mold-clearance”. Toxic mold-related health problems will not improve until the mycotoxin molecules are gone, not just the “mold spores”.

**HERTSMI-2 (\$130)** (Health Effects Roster of Type-Specific Mycotoxins and Inflammagens, 2nd Version) is a mold test for the most-important health-related “Big 5” molds: Aspergillus Penicilloides, Aspergillus Versicolor, Chaetomium Globosum, Stachybotrys Chartarum, and Wallemia Sebi. A Score Calculation is done to quantify danger from mold exposure. (This test was designed by Dr Ritchie Shoemaker for efficient assessment of most mold-safety hazards in indoors environments. In some cases, multiple tests may be needed to assess separate areas for mold contamination.) Repeat testing after “Mold Remediation” may be needed to verify mold clearance.

**HERTSMI-2 Score:** Over 16 shows mold health-hazard; 12-16 might be for sensitive people. Lab reports have about 7-day turnaround time from receipt of specimen. Bring lab report to the doctor for interpretation, to review your symptoms and provide customized health advice.

**Information available** from the lab website:

- Chain of Custody Forms (For Individual or Consultant legal documentation)
- Collecting Instructions
- Other specialized mold-test panels, such as adding an assessment of Actinomycetes (a category of toxic bacteria) to a HERTSMI panel; see lab menu for combinations & prices. (See Dr Shoemaker’s discussion of Actino Index at <https://www.survivingmold.com/legal-resources/dr.-shoemaker-essays/a-physicians-guide-to-use-of-actinobacteria-indices>.)

You need to specify one of the following specimen-collection kits to obtain mold specimens:

- **Swiffer cloth:** Usually the preferred method, testing different surfaces in home by wiping dusty areas (top of cabinets, door jams, windowsills, etc). This is good if there are pets, mostly-wood flooring, or if outdoor contamination from foot traffic on the carpet. The Swiffer cloth must look dirty to get a good sample.
- **Vacuum cone:** Sample dust collection from a 22 square foot carpeted area. The cone is attached to a vacuum cleaner hose, and the inner tube must be as full as possible for a good sample.

**ERMI (\$240)** (Environmental Relative Moldiness Index) was developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Research and Development (ORD). ERMI uses the analysis of settled dust in homes and buildings to identify molds by a mold-specific quantitative polymerase chain reaction (MSQPCR) to quantify 36 molds and calculate an index number for comparison with a database of reference homes. (This test uses a different scoring method than the HERTSMI test.)