

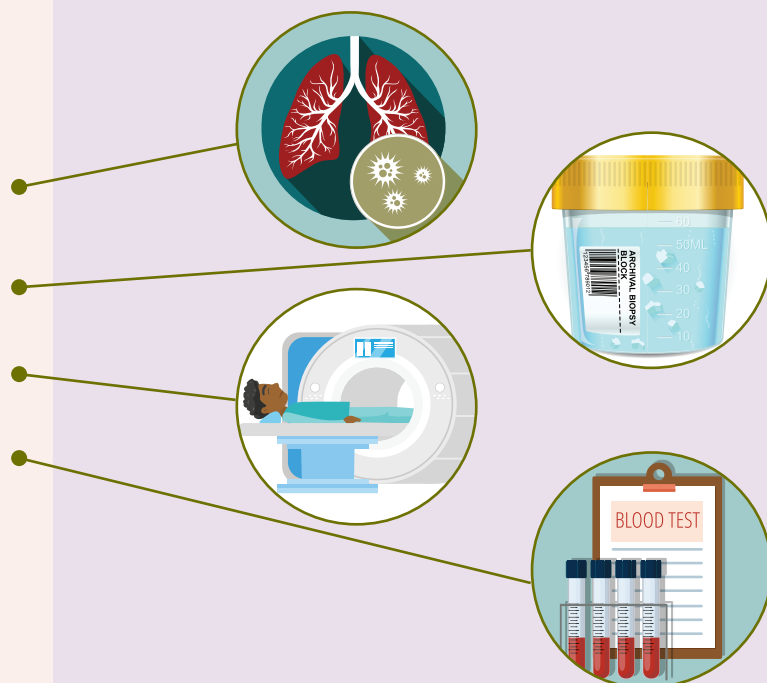


## Diagnosis and Treatment

Diagnosing an invasive mold infection requires multiple diagnostic tests. Results of these tests should be interpreted in the context of each specific patient. These tests include:

- Culture of specimens from the affected area (such as bronchoalveolar lavage [BAL]), which is often used to detect lung infections)
- Biopsy of the suspected body part affected to obtain a sample for fungal culture and histopathology
- Imaging of the affected part of the body (e.g., chest computed tomography [CT] for respiratory symptoms)
- Blood tests (such as *Aspergillus* galactomannan), which are primarily used in immunocompromised patients

Starting treatment early can help prevent deaths. Treatment includes antifungal medications and, in some cases, urgent surgery. Consider consulting an infectious diseases specialist to help with diagnosis and treatment.

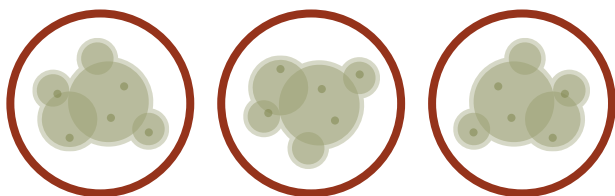


## Prevention and Patient Resources



After major flooding or other exposure to water damage and mold, talk with your immunocompromised patients about how to protect themselves from mold:

- Mold grows where there is moisture, usually within 24–48 hours of flooding. Even if it is not visible, it is often present.
- Immunocompromised people should not enter moldy buildings or help clean up mold.
  - » If it is impossible for people with weakened immune systems to avoid a moldy building, they should talk with their doctor and consider wearing an N95 respirator inside the building. Remind patients that this will still not fully protect them from becoming exposed to mold, but may reduce their risk.
- If there is mold in your patient's home, someone who is healthy and able should clean it up and fix any water problems.
- Healthy people who clean up mold or spend time in areas affected by mold should wear full protective clothing, including an N95 respirator, gloves, boots, long pants, and long sleeves. An N95 respirator alone may not fully protect people from becoming exposed to mold and getting sick.



For more information on mold cleanup, refer patients to the following CDC resources or provide them with a printed copy:

- Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters: <https://www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup-guide.html>
- CDC mold web page <https://www.cdc.gov/mold/>