

## Guilford County Department of Public Health Update on Assistance to Guilford County Schools (Health Information)

May 27, 2009

The Guilford County Department of Public Health has been working diligently to find the cause and the remedy for Oak Ridge Elementary School issues.

For the past 2 weeks, we have been working with the schools advising them on the medical and environmental health effects of fungal and environmental pollutants. We have inspected the school, interviewed teachers, analyzed the HVAC system, reviewed HVAC maintenance schedules, reviewed the consultant reports, collected information from maintenance and facilities staff, attended the school forum, met with the Superintendent and his staff, assembled our Epidemiology team, drafted a survey for parents and teachers, and are preparing to administer the survey at the end of the week.

We are very sensitive to the fact that environmental quality can have immediate and long lasting effects on children and adults. Different organisms will cause different symptoms. For this reason, we want to make sure we assist the school system with focusing on the exact culprit. In the natural environment, there are many causes for respiratory symptoms; and we want to assess the environment to focus on a resolution.