

Ference
SB631

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Oakwood®

Members of the Oakwood Physician Network

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Re: Ferenc. Marv K.

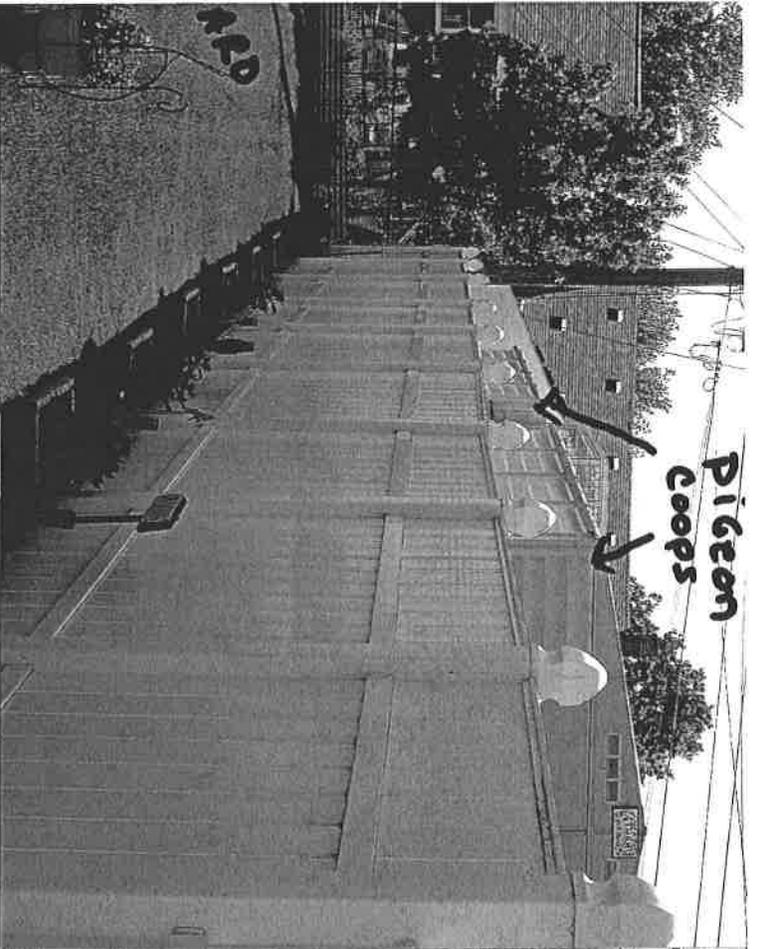
To Whom It May Concern:

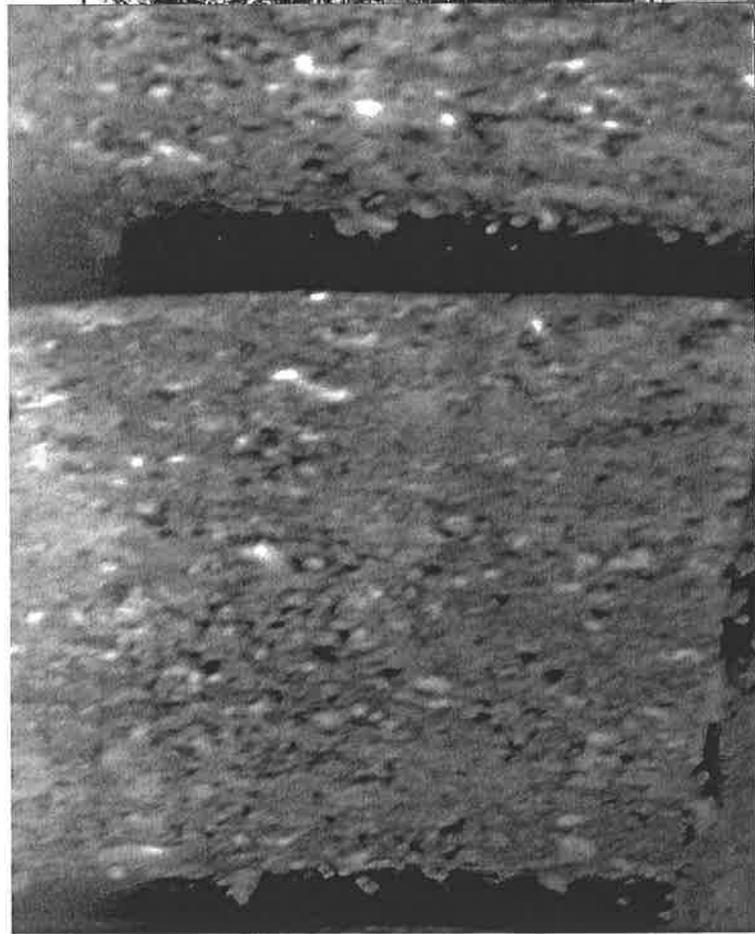
Mrs. Ferenc suffers from atypical ductal hyperplasia of the breast. It is recommended that her environmental surroundings be clean and void of infectious agents or environmental contaminants.

Sincerely,

Oscar R. Signori, M.D., F.A.C.P.
ORS/BTS:mab
1119.chop.ors.let.012

This is a note from my
oncologist, as well as some
documentation on the health
hazards of pigeons. In
May 2013 I completed a 5yr.
program of TAMOXIFEN - a
chemo given for breast cancer.
I am also TB+. So this
whole pigeon nuisance is
a MAJOR concern for me.

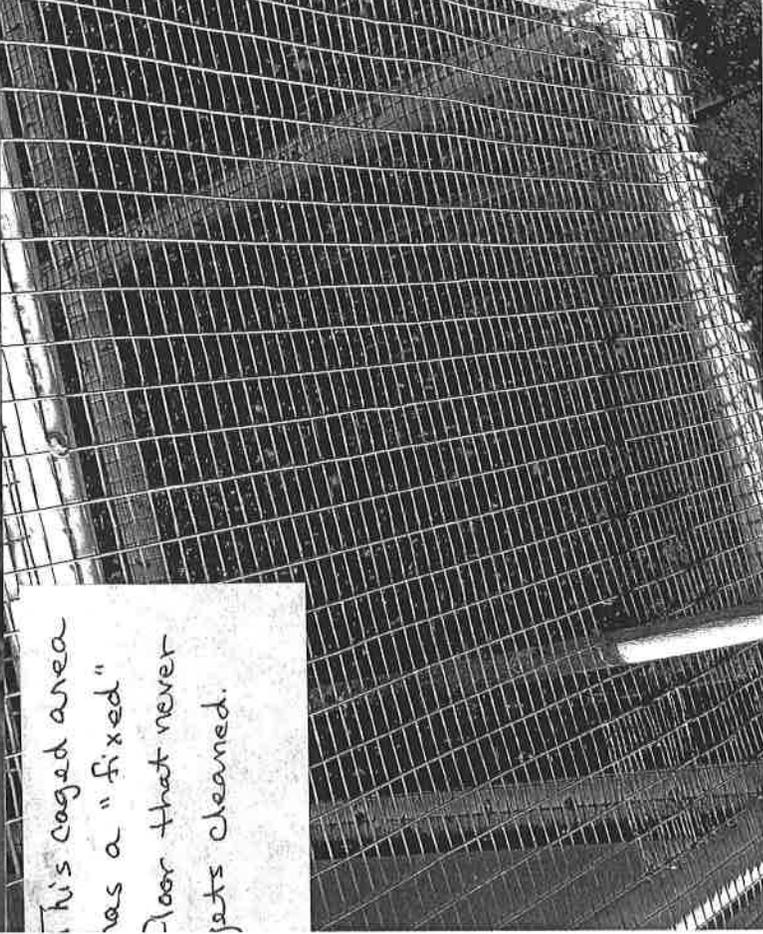


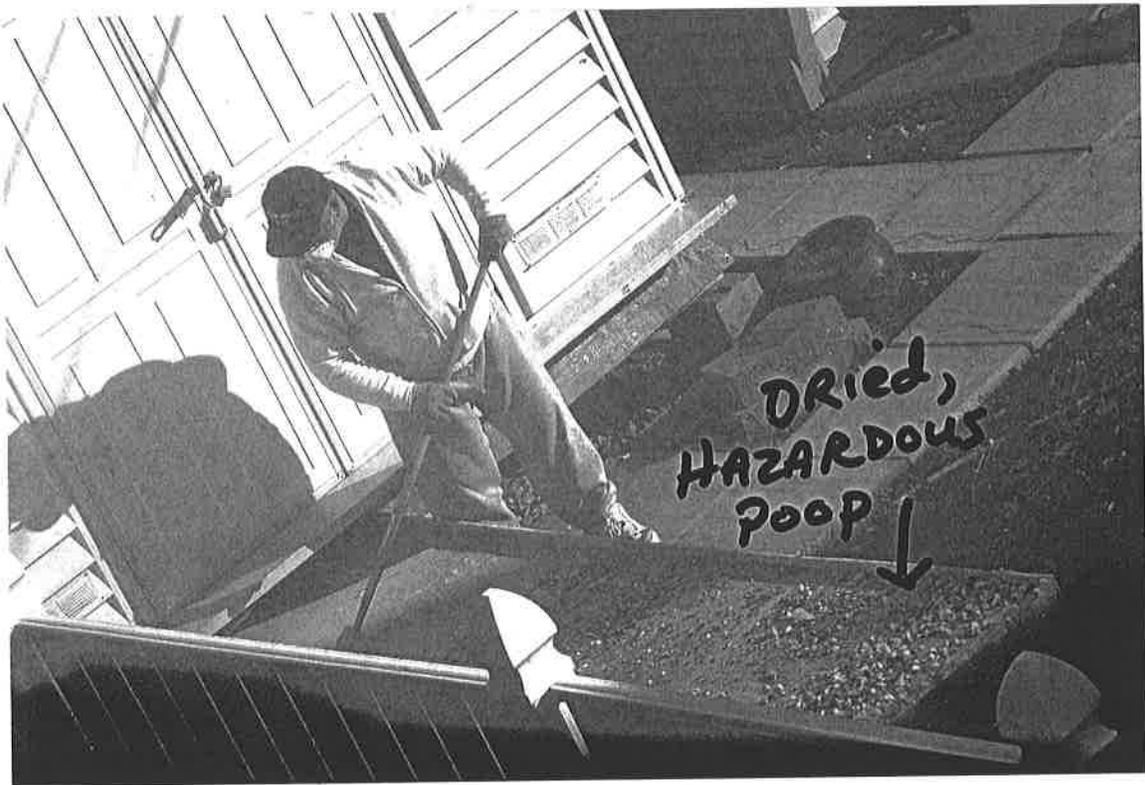


This caged area was a "fixed" floor that never gets cleaned.



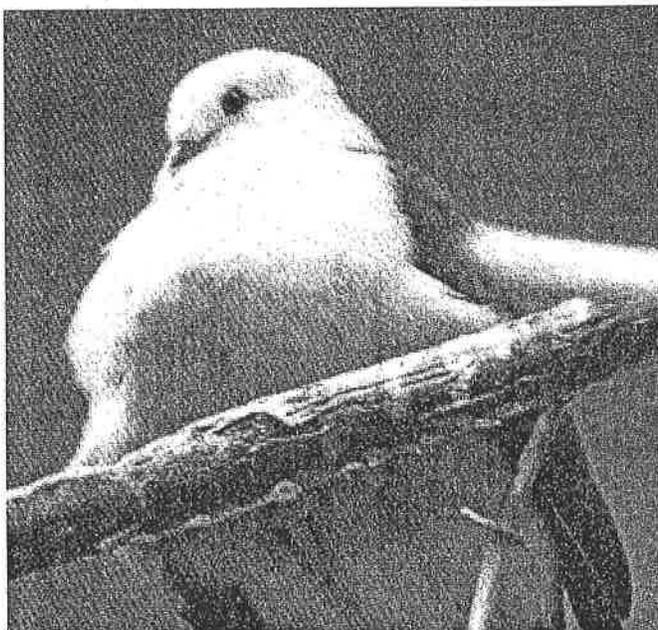
Scraping the dried Poop - there are 4 floors.





examiner.com

Pigeon droppings pose serious health risks at concert



images.google



Nancy Zielinski
Grand Rapids Public Health
Examiner

July 27, 2010

An onslaught of pigeon droppings at a recent Kings of Leon concert in St. Louis were responsible for cutting short the band's performance and sent the members of the band running for cover.

Pigeon droppings pose a serious health hazard to humans and is associated with human diseases such as cryptococcosis and histoplasmosis.

Cryptococcosis is a fungal disease that is found in the soil and associated with pigeon droppings. It is a disease that typically infects individuals with

compromised immune systems, although it may affect people who are healthy. Humans can become infected simply by inhaling airborne fungi spread by droppings. Infections may cause a pneumonia-like illness, with shortness of breath, coughing and fever. Skin lesions may develop. Health experts advise seeing a doctor immediately. Treatment may include antifungal drugs such as fluconazole.

Histoplasmosis is a disease caused by fungus that may grow in pigeon droppings and found in soils around the world. A person may become infected by breathing in dry fungus spores that become airborne. Those infected may experience chest pains,



Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program

Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

Christine M. Grant, JD, MBA
Commissioner

April, 2000

Control of Health Hazards Associated with Bird and Bat Droppings

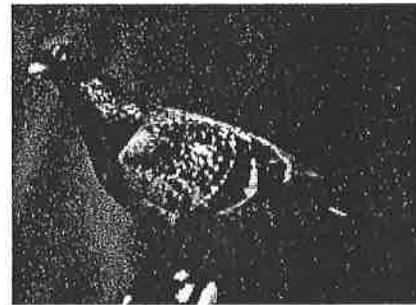
Special points of interest:

- Disease Association
- Recognition
- Evaluation
- Hazard Control
- Recommendations
- Further Information

Health Risks

Large populations of roosting birds may present a disease risk. The most serious health risks arise from disease organisms that grow in the nutrient-rich accumulations of bird droppings, feathers and debris under a roost - particularly if roosts have been active for years. In addition, insects that live on birds or their droppings may become a problem when the infested birds leave roosts or nests. These insects can invade buildings and bite or irritate people.

This bulletin discusses the health risks and control of the risk of several of the fungal diseases associated with bird and bat droppings and methods of controlling these risks.



location. In one New Jersey worksite, accumulated manure was found in a stair well leading to the basement. Local newspapers reported that a city hall building was "taken over" by pigeons that had deposited several inches of manure on the window ledges. At a bridge commission, employees complained to the PEOSH Program that their booths were covered in pigeon droppings. Maintenance engineers at a university campus were concerned about bird droppings near a ventilation system located on the roof of one of the buildings. Furthermore, several building attics were evaluated because of employee concerns with bird manure accumulations.

MR MORRIS has done this for 3+ YEARS.



The PEOSH Program has evaluated several work sites where employees were concerned about health hazards from accumulated pigeon droppings. The common denominator in these PEOSH investigations has

been the presence of roosting pigeons in an undisturbed

Fungal Diseases

Among the fungal diseases associated with bird and bat droppings the two most common are histoplasmosis and cryptococcosis.

Histoplasmosis

Histoplasmosis is caused by a fungus (*Histoplasma capsulatum*). The disease is transmitted to humans by airborne fungus spores from soil contaminated by pigeon and starling droppings (as well as from the droppings of other birds and bats). The active and inactive roosts of blackbirds, starlings, grackles and cowbirds have also been found to be heavily contaminated with fungus spores.



The soil under a roost usually has been enriched by droppings for three years or more for the disease organism to reach significant levels. Although almost always associated with soil, the fungus has been found in droppings alone, particularly those from bats. Infection occurs when spores, carried by the air, are inhaled - especially after a roost has been disturbed. Most infections are mild and produce either no symptoms or a minor influenza-like illness. On occasion, the disease can cause high fever, blood abnormalities, pneumonia and even death. In some areas up to 80 percent of the population show evidence of previous, usually asymptomatic infection.

Dusts containing *H. capsulatum* spores can be aerosolized during construction, excavation, or demolition. Once airborne, spores can be carried easily by wind currents over long distances. Such contaminated airborne dusts can cause infections not only in persons at a work site, but also in others nearby. Such activities were suggested as the cause of the three largest outbreaks of histoplasmosis ever recorded. All three outbreaks took place in Indianapolis, Indiana. During the first outbreak, in

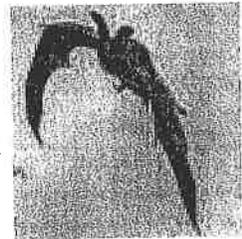
the fall of 1978 and spring of 1979, an estimated 120,000 people were infected, and 15 people died. The second outbreak, in 1980, was similar to the first in the number of people affected. During the third outbreak, in 1988, AIDS patients accounted for nearly 50% of culture-proven cases.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has reported a potentially blinding eye condition - presumed ocular histoplasmosis syndrome (OHS) - that results from the fungus. NIH estimates that 4 percent of those exposed to the airborne organism are at risk of developing OHS.

The soil in a stand of trees where blackbirds have roosted for 3 or more years should be suspected of being contaminated by the fungus. Habitats of pigeons and bats, and poultry houses with dirt floors have also been found contaminated by *H. capsulatum*.

Fresh bird droppings on surfaces such as sidewalks and windowsills have not been shown to present a health risk for histoplasmosis because birds themselves do not appear to be infected by *H. capsulatum*. Rather, bird manure is primarily a nutrient source for the growth of *H. capsulatum* already present in soil. Unlike birds, bats can become infected with *H. capsulatum* and consequently can excrete the organism in their droppings.

Bats are associated with a few diseases that affect people. The incidence of histoplasmosis being transmitted from bat droppings to humans occurs infrequently. Large colonies of bats do not normally inhabit work areas. Bat colonies are common in undisturbed areas. Nevertheless, fresh bat droppings (unlike fresh bird dropping) can contain the histoplasmosis fungus. Bat droppings do not need to come into contact with soil to be a source of the disease.



Anyone working at a job or present near activities where material contaminated with *H. capsulatum* becomes airborne can develop histoplasmosis if enough spores are inhaled. After an exposure, how ill a person becomes varies greatly and most likely depends on the number of spores inhaled and a person's age and susceptibility to the disease. The number of inhaled spores needed to cause disease is unknown. Infants, young children, and older persons, in particular those with chronic lung disease, are at increased risk for developing symptomatic histoplasmosis.

Below is a partial list of occupations and hobbies with risks for exposure to *H. capsulatum* spores. Appropriate exposure precautions should be taken by these people and others whenever contaminated soil, bat droppings, or bird manure are disturbed:

- Bridge inspector or painter
- Chimney cleaner
- Construction worker
- Demolition worker
- Farmer
- Gardener
- Heating and air-conditioning system installer or service person
- Microbiology laboratory worker
- Pest control worker
- Restorer of historic or abandoned buildings
- Roofer and
- Spelunker (cave explorer).

If people who engage in these activities develop flu-like symptoms days or even weeks after disturbing material that might be contaminated with *H. capsulatum*, and the illness worsens rather than subsides after a few days, medical care should be sought. The health care provider should be informed about the potential exposure.

Cryptococcosis

Cryptococcus neoformans (*C. neoformans*) is found worldwide. Its main habitats are debris around pigeon

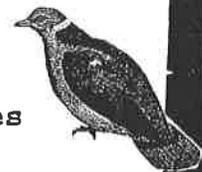
roosts and soil contaminated with decaying pigeon or chicken droppings.
It is generally accepted that the organism enters the host by the respiratory route in the form of a dehydrated yeast or as spores.

Like histoplasmosis, most cryptococcosis infections are mild and occur without symptoms. Diffuse pulmonary infection is often asymptomatic and unrecognized. Persons with weakened immune systems, however, are more susceptible to symptomatic infection. The generalized form of cryptococcosis begins with a lung infection and spreads to other areas of the body, particularly the central nervous system, and is usually fatal if left untreated. The cutaneous (skin) form is characterized by acne-like skin eruptions or ulcers with nodules just under the skin. The cutaneous form is very rare, however, without generalized (systemic) disease. Unlike histoplasmosis, outbreaks (multiple cases at a location) of cryptococcosis infections have not been documented.

Pigeon droppings appear to be the most important source of the fungus *C. neoformans* in the environment. The fungus is typically found in accumulations of droppings around roosting and nesting sites, for example, attics, cupolas, ledges and water towers. It has been found in as many as 84 percent of samples taken from old roosts. Even when old and dry, bird droppings can be a significant source of infection.

Other Associated Diseases

Other diseases carried or transmitted by birds affect people to a lesser degree. Psittacosis and toxoplasmosis are normally mild in humans; however, serious illness or death may occur rarely. Pigeons and sparrows also have been implicated (along with many other species of birds) as sources of encephalitis viruses transmitted by mosquitoes.



REALLY - NOT A HEALTH CONCERN??

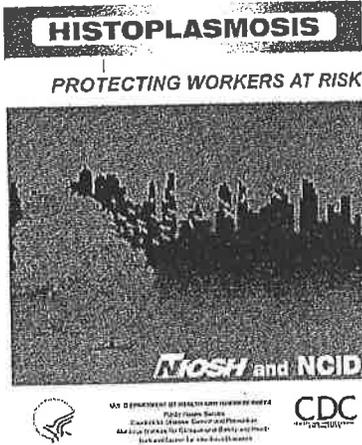


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

September 1997

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication Number 97-146

Note: This publication has been superseded by [2005-109 \(/niosh/docs/2005-109/default.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-109/default.html)



I am already TB+ -
I cannot chance being outside with 100+ pigeons only 28 inches from my yard!

Histoplasmosis: Protecting Workers at Risk

What is histoplasmosis?

Histoplasmosis is an infectious disease caused by inhaling the spores of a fungus called *Histoplasma capsulatum*. Histoplasmosis is not contagious; it cannot be transmitted from an infected person or animal to someone else.

Histoplasmosis primarily affects a person's lungs, and its symptoms vary greatly. The vast majority of infected people are asymptomatic (have no apparent ill effects), or they experience symptoms so mild they do not seek medical attention and may not even realize that their illness was histoplasmosis. If symptoms do occur, they will usually start within 3 to 17 days after exposure, with an average of 10 days. Histoplasmosis can appear as a mild, flu-like respiratory illness and has a combination of symptoms, including malaise (a general ill feeling), fever, chest pain, dry or nonproductive cough, headache, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, joint and muscle pains, chills, and hoarseness. A chest X-ray can reveal distinct markings on an infected person's lungs.

* Chronic lung disease due to histoplasmosis resembles tuberculosis and can worsen over months or years. Special antifungal medications are needed to arrest the disease. The most severe and rarest form of this disease is disseminated histoplasmosis, which involves spreading of the fungus to other organs outside the lungs. Disseminated histoplasmosis is fatal if untreated, but death can also occur in some patients even when medical treatment is received. People with weakened immune systems are at the greatest risk for developing severe and disseminated histoplasmosis. Included in this high-risk group are persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or cancer and persons receiving cancer chemotherapy; high-dose, long-term steroid therapy; or other immuno-suppressive drugs.



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C. neoformans cryptococcosis

Sources of Cryptococcosis

How is someone infected with *Cryptococcus neoformans*?

C. neoformans spores are typically found in bird droppings (especially pigeon droppings) or in soil contaminated with bird droppings. Humans can become infected after inhaling microscopic, airborne fungal spores from the environment. Cryptococcosis is not known to be spread from person to person, from animal to animal, or from animals to humans.

Page last reviewed: March 25, 2013

Page last updated: March 25, 2013

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID)

Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED)

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WHY WOULD I WANT TO SIT IN
 MY YARD ; take a chance !!

This is a total nuisance and
 does NOT allow me to be on my
OWN property! I should NOT
be forced to stay indoors!