



# Fact Sheet on

## Cluster Investigation at the Decatur Elementary Learning Center

Environmental Consulting

Health & Safety Investigations

Engineering Services

Microscopy

### Background

A Cluster investigation was initiated as a result of health issues exhibited by some employees. pH2 was contracted to investigate these concerns. The investigation was conducted using guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

### What is a Disease Cluster?

It is the occurrence of a singular disease occurring more than expected in a defined population and geographic area. It is important to note that if a disease is common its occurrence can appear to be a cluster.

### Why was a disease cluster investigation done?

There were reports of individuals potentially diagnosed with Brain Tumors. To be protective and preventative the School Administration decided to investigate further.

### What criteria were used to determine if there was a disease cluster?

The Centers for Disease Control uses the following criteria to define a disease cluster:

- The reported disease is identical in all reported cases
- The reported cases occur in a defined geographic area
- The disease is likely to be related to a plausible environmental exposure
- The number of reported diseases exceeds the expected rate.

### How was Community information gathered and shared?

- Names of individuals in the suspect disease cluster primarily gathered from Human Resources were interviewed to acquire information on:
  - Historical Place of residence,
  - Medical background,
  - Disease status,
  - Occupation and non-occupational exposures
- Evaluated comments received by phone, online (news channels, social media), and in person from teachers, staff, and parents.
- On-line Survey (received 105 responses)

### What were the findings?

CRITERIA	YES	NO
The location of the disease is identical in all reported cases		X
The reported cases occur in the defined geographic area	X	
The disease is likely to be related to a plausible environmental exposure		X
The number of cases exceeds the expected rate		X
<b>Disease Cluster Confirmed</b>		X

### What happens next?

pH2 will update this analysis upon request if new data becomes available.