

## Data Driven qPCR Sampling Leads to Comprehensive Solutions



In part three of our mold sampling series, we're taking a deeper dive into testing where we discuss qPCR sampling. qPCR sampling gives us a more detailed analysis of the types of mold and other potential environmental hazards that may be impacting a property and a client's health. If you're struggling with a possible environmental issue and haven't been able to find the right answers, qPCR testing may be the right solution for you. So grab a pen and press play. We're going to tell you why.



### What is qPCR sampling and analysis?

- **It's short for Quantitative Polymer Chain Reaction**

- The testing targets the DNA of the mold taking a deeper look at what may be impacting a property.
- Commonly referred to as ERMI analysis when used for mold samples.
- Tests for the DNA trace of 36 different mold species to reveal their presence and concentration levels in a home.



### What does ERMI stand for?

- **Environmental Relevant Moldiness Index**

- Derived from a study done by the EPA in the early 2000s to help determine what might be baselines for low, average, and high when completing qPCR testing.
- Known as the ERMI Score System.
- Testing scale used to determine the overall mold contamination within a building.

*"I think that's where we kind of set ourselves apart from some of the consultants that are out there in that we're looking for all those solutions. So it's not just this cookie-cutter method we come in and say we're going to run a bunch of samples, and then we'll get back to you. It's never that."*

### Why should an ERMI score always be used with additional data?

- Over the years, independent environmental specialists (IDPs) began to rely solely on the EMRI scores when evaluating homes instead of looking at the other contributing factors, such as individual mold types, concentration levels, relative humidity, etc... The ERMI score should be used as one tool in our arsenal to complete a comprehensive investigation. When used alone, an ERMI score has much less significance in determining what the most effective next steps should be.
- At Mold Inspection Sciences, we've compiled our own database, based on thousands of investigations, of average, normal, and high, which allows us to give clients more detailed results and next steps.
- The bottom line is that qPCR data and individual mold types are invaluable data for a comprehensive investigation.



*"I appreciate the professionalism, care and support of the people at Mold Inspection Sciences. In particular Rick and Ben who have been helping with post-storm related issues. It's a pleasure working with them."*

- Janice Muniz  
Google 5-Star Review

## Did You Know?

qPCR testing is also crucial for people who may have Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS) or mold-related illness and are working with a doctor for a specific treatment plan.



*"There is important data in the sampling and methodology itself that we can use. Every case we come across is individual and unique and then figuring out how to use that data best for these types of projects to get to the solution that our clients are looking for."*

### What is the HERTSMI Scoring System?

- Developed by one of the leading medical professionals in the medical end of the industry, Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker.
- Condensed and less comprehensive version of the qPCR sample test that only tests for five different types of molds within a home.
- Statistical data that proves when specific species of molds are present in certain concentrations. It can be used to link the results with various health symptoms.

### What is EMMA Testing?

- Not a commonly used analysis, but can provide another data point to help in determining the concentration level of contamination.
- Another type of qPCR testing known as the Environmental Mold and Mycotoxin Assessment.
- Tests at the DNA level for ten molds and 16 mycotoxins which are then tied to a urinalysis sample to pinpoint whether or not exposure is happening inside the home.

*"At Mold Inspection Sciences there is always someone to answer the question or find a solution. And, if there's not, we continue to dig until we get it."*



At **Mold Inspection Sciences Texas**, our goal is to meet your needs as swiftly as possible while working to discover what's going on in your property. If you have questions or concerns about the testing or inspection process, please don't hesitate to contact us. **We're here to help protect you, those around you, and your investment in your property. Contact Us Today! 888.335.MOLD (6653) | CSR@MoldInspectionTexas.com**