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Mold experts will inspect houses, examine residents in St. Bernard this weekend

Experts on mold will visit St. Bernard Parish this weekend to examine residents with respiratory problems and inspect homes and buildings.

Dr. Ritchie Shoemaker, an expert who has written several books on biotoxins, will be on the Scotia Prince, docked in the Mississippi River at Violet, to examine St. Bernard Parish residents with respiratory issues today through Sunday.

Shoemaker, of Pocomoke, Md., author of the book "Mold Warriors," will see patients in the cruise ship infirmary from 3-8 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday. Officials said they are arranging shuttle buses from the St. Bernard medical clinic in Chalmette to bring some patients to the ship.

Also, mold toxicologist Richard Lipsey of Jacksonville, Fla., head of Lipsey & Associates, will be in St. Bernard Parish Friday through Sunday and will speak with parish officials about mold problems as well as inspect some buildings and homes, where samples will be taken, parish officials said.

Shoemaker and Lipsey were invited to St. Bernard by Matthew Hudson of Virginia, owner of the company that operates the Scotia Prince, which is serving as the home for many parish residents who lost their homes.

"We're just trying to help where we can," Hudson said.

The cruise ship is accessed from a dock in the 6400 block of East St. Bernard Highway in Violet. It is a federal installation and visitors are subject to all posted rules.

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