

Experts list many ways fungi can taint drugs

October 16 2012, by Mike Stobbe

(AP)—Experts say there are many ways fungi could have gotten inside the Massachusetts pharmacy at the center of the deadly U.S. outbreak of fungal meningitis.

Dirty conditions at the pharmacy, faulty sterilizing equipment, tainted ingredients or careless lab technicians could have led to contamination of the steroid medication blamed for the outbreak.

[Health authorities](#) are still investigating, and the New England Compounding Center of Framingham, Massachusetts, has not commented on what might have gone wrong, so outside experts can only speculate.

The outbreak has killed at least 15 people and sickened more than 200 others in 15 states. Nearly all had received [steroid injections](#) for back pain.

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Experts list many ways fungi can taint drugs (2012, October 16) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-10-experts-ways-fungi-taint-drugs.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--