



## PUBLIC SCHOOL IPM AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Legislation was passed in 1998 and 1999 which requires public schools to adopt integrated pest management (IPM) systems and to develop parental and staff notification programs for pesticide applications made in school buildings or on school grounds. The following is a summary of the regulations developed to implement the new laws.

### INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Each county board of education must implement for its schools an IPM system that has been approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Integrated pest management, as defined in law, means "a managed pest control program in which methods are integrated and used to keep pests from causing economic, health related, or aesthetic injury through the utilization of site or pest inspections, pest population monitoring, evaluating the need for control, and the use of one or more pest control methods including sanitation, structural repair, nonchemical methods, and, when nontoxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted, pesticides, in order to minimize the use of pesticides and the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications". MDA has developed uniform standards for implementing IPM in schools or on school grounds. The IPM system must include the following components:

- ♦ An IPM policy
- ♦ Pest management roles and responsibilities
- ♦ Pest control procedures
- ♦ Inspection and monitoring procedures
- ♦ Standards to determine severity of pest infestation and need for corrective action
- ♦ Records of pest sightings, pest control procedures, communications about IPM, or pesticide use
- ♦ Pest management strategies, i.e., sanitation, structural repair, physical, cultural and biological control, nonchemical methods, and pesticide application
- ♦ Annual evaluation of IPM strategies
- ♦ Notification procedures



For further details, refer to MDA's "Integrated Pest Management in Schools - IPM Training Manual", "Introduction to IPM Principles and Practices", "Yellowjackets and IPM", "Action Thresholds in School IPM Programs", the University of Maryland's "IPM Training Manual for Grounds Maintenance", "Contracting Guidelines for IPM Services in Maryland Public Schools", "IPM in Maryland Schools: Plant Selection and Care", and "IPM for School Lawns, Athletic Fields, and Weeds on School Grounds". Contact MDA regarding availability of these documents.

## NOTIFICATION

Public schools must provide certain information to parents or guardians of students in the schools, to students and to staff members about the school's IPM system and about pesticide applications in school buildings or on school grounds. Notification requirements vary, depending on the grade level of the school, type of pesticide applied and pesticide application method.

### SCHOOL CALENDAR NOTICE

At the beginning of each school year, public schools must send a notice to the parent or guardian of each student in primary and secondary schools. The notice can be printed in a document such as the school calendar or newsletter. The notice must include the following information:

- ♦ Explanation of the school system's IPM program
- ♦ List of pesticides or bait stations used in school buildings or on school grounds
- ♦ Name, address, and telephone number of contact person
- ♦ Statement that the contact person keeps copies of labels and material safety data sheets (MSDS) of pesticide products used in school buildings or on school grounds and that the labels and MSDS are available for review
- ♦ Instructions for parents or guardians and staff on how to enroll on a pesticide notification list to receive prior notice of pesticide applications

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The parents or guardians of each elementary school student, and staff members employed by the elementary school, must be notified at least 24 hours before a pesticide is applied in a school building or on school grounds. If an emergency pest situation arises and a pesticide is applied, notification must be made within 24 hours of the application. For pesticide applications made on the school grounds, the notice of planned date and time of application may specify that weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances may cause the actual date of application to be postponed to a later date or dates. If the actual date of application is more than 14 days later than the original planned date of the application, a new notice must be issued. The following information must be provided as part of the notification:

- ♦ Common name of pesticide applied
- ♦ Location, date and time of application
- ♦ Description of potential adverse effects listed on the MSDS
- ♦ The following statement: "The Office of Pesticide Programs of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has stated: *'Where possible, persons who potentially are more sensitive, such as pregnant women and infants (less than two years old), should avoid any unnecessary pesticide exposure'*"
- ♦ Reason for emergency application (if applicable)

### PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION LIST - MIDDLE SCHOOL or HIGH SCHOOL

The parents or guardians of a middle school or high school student, and staff members employed by middle schools and high schools, must submit



a written request to the school to receive notification of pesticide applications made during the school year in the school building or on school grounds. Each middle school and high school is required to develop a pesticide notification list, keep it current, and make it available to MDA on request.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Parents or guardians of middle school or high school students, and staff members employed by middle schools and high schools, who are on the pesticide notification list will be notified by the school 24 hours before a pesticide is applied in a school building or on school grounds. Notification must occur within 24 hours after an emergency pesticide application. For pesticide applications made on school grounds, the notice of planned date and time of application may specify that weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances may cause the actual date of application to be postponed to a later date or dates. If the actual date of application is more than 14 days later than the original planned date of the application, a new notice must be issued. The notice provided to individuals on the pesticide notification list is the same notice given by elementary schools. The school can provide the notification by a written notice sent home with the student or provided to a staff member, a telephone call, direct contact or a written notice mailed three days before the application.

## SPACE SPRAYING

A space spray is a pesticide that is discharged into the air throughout an entire room or area by a fogger or aerosol device, usually to control flying or crawling insects. Before a space spray can be used in any school, the school must notify each parent or guardian and staff member one week before the pesticide is applied. The notice must include the same information as the other notices previously described.

## IN-SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

A middle school or a high school must provide in-school notification, by oral announcements or written notice, before a pesticide is applied in that school. A sign or notice must be posted at the room or area that is treated and either at the primary entrance to the school or in a central location when a pesticide is applied in a school building. When a pesticide is applied on school grounds, a sign or notice must be posted at the primary entrance to the school or in a central location.

When bait stations (containers enclosing an insecticide or rodenticide bait) are used in an elementary, middle or high school, that school must post a sign or notice on the door of the room or at the primary entrance to the treatment area.

The notice or sign posted as part of the in-school notification must include the following information:

- ♦ *"Caution--Pesticide Application"*
- ♦ Common name of pesticide applied
- ♦ Location and date of pesticide application or date bait station was placed
- ♦ Contact person for additional information, including information on potential adverse effects

The notice or sign must remain posted for at least 48 hours after the pesticide is applied or until the bait station is removed.

## POSTING ON-SITE

When a pesticide application is made on school grounds, a sign must be posted at the time of the application at each primary access to the school property. If a spot or limited area pesticide application is made, a sign may be posted at the location where the pesticide application was made. The sign must remain posted for at least 48 hours following the application.

**For More Information Contact The:**

**Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Pesticide Regulation Section**

**50 Harry S. Truman Parkway**

**Annapolis, MD 21401**

**Phone: (410) 841-5710**

**FaX: (410) 841-2765**

**Internet: [www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)**



**Martin O'Malley  
Governor**

**Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor**

**Earl F. Hance  
Secretary of Agriculture**

**Mary Ellen Setting  
Deputy Secretary**

