

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PLAN FOR QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Pest Management Policy Statement

Structural pests, i.e. insects and rodents, carry diseases, contaminate food and food preparation areas and can cause structural damage thus posing significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pest control in the school environment must protect the health and safety of the children and staff, minimize pest damage to structures and personal property, improve the quality of the educational environment by avoiding annoyance and disruption of work and learning caused by insects, rodents and other pests. It is therefore the policy of the Queen Anne's County Public Schools to adopt Integrated Pest Management for control of structural pests.

Roles and Responsibilities

The IPM program will require the assistance and cooperation of the administration, staff and students. The Queen Anne's County Public Schools has established Mr. James O'Donnell, Board of Education Queen Anne's County, 202 Chesterfield Avenue, Centreville, Maryland 21617 as a Contact Person to serve as a liaison between the administration and pest control program in order to provide oversight, consistency in the pest control program and ensure the provisions of IPM system are fulfilled. Mr. O'Donnell will advise the administration, staff, parents and guardians and students as necessary of IPM program changes and new laws and regulations affecting the IPM system.

Students and staff will comply with the provisions of the IPM system by ensuring that areas requiring maintenance or repair, sanitation problems and pest problems or sightings are documented. Students and staff need to ensure good sanitation practices are followed.

Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (insects, animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with the use of the school site for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment. IPM relies on the coordinated use of pest and environmental information and the pest available pest management methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to students, staff, property and the environment. Long-term control of pests is achieved by using information about the biology and habits of the pest and its interaction with its surroundings.

Pest Management

The Integrated Pest Management plan will be developed for the School District as required by the Maryland's Regulations pertaining to Integrated Pest Management and Notification of Pesticide Use in a Public School. Approved pest management plans will be developed for the site and will include any proposed pest management measures.

Pests will be managed to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property and prevent a reoccurrence of the problem.
- Prevent pests from spreading into community, or areas beyond the site.
- Improve the quality of the educational environment, for students, staff and the public.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and identify conditions contributing to pest problems through the use of monitoring and thorough inspections conducted at regular intervals. Problem areas will be identified where alternative pest control technologies can be incorporated in order to eliminate routine pesticide applications. The necessity for pest control, if warranted, will be evaluated based on information obtained from inspections and monitoring. These actions will be based on action threshold levels that will be established based on the site and pest. When pest control procedures are warranted, the utilization of one or more pest control methods including sanitation, structural repair, nonchemical methods and pesticides will be used.

IPM practices will depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. By applying IPM principles, unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage will be prevented by the most economical means while minimizing the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications.

The choice of using pesticides will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are unreasonable to have been exhausted, in order to minimize the use of pesticides. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for the use of pesticides, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of this School District/Board of Education to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of pest control alternatives will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet vital pest management goals, the least hazardous pesticide will be selected. The application of such pesticides are subject to the School District's/Board of Education's policies and procedures and all applicable state, federal and local regulations including the Maryland Pesticide Applicators Law and Regulations, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

Record Keeping

Records will be established and maintained by the certified pest control specialist with assistance from the school secretary for maintaining notification records. The records will include:

- A copy of the Pest Management Plan
- A copy of the current EPA registered label and the current MSDS for each pesticide product used on the school property.

- IPM service report sheets which record the type and number of pests or other indicators of pest population levels revealed by the monitoring program for the site.
- Pest control procedures
- Application records
- Documentation of notices

Records of pesticide use shall be provided to the school by the licensee, permit holder or certified applicator at the time of the pesticide application and will be maintained for 2 years. Records must be current and accurate. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests or other indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments. Documentation of communications to students and staff regarding IPM and pesticide use will be maintained by the Contact Person.

Pesticide Applications

Pesticides may be used after it is determined that non-toxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted. The least hazardous pesticide will be selected and the method and time of application will be based on the goal to minimize the potential for exposure of students and staff to the pesticide. Pesticide applications made on school property will be conducted by an individual certified as a pest control applicator or by a registered employee working under the supervision of a certified applicator. Applicators must be trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides. They must follow state and federal pesticide regulations and label precautions and comply with this School District's IPM Policy and Plan.

Education

Staff, students, pest managers, and the public will be educated about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives and will be informed of their role in meeting these objectives.

Program Evaluation

An annual review of the IPM system will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the program and program objectives have been achieved. This will include the review of inspection reports, sanitation reports, and other records to establish current conditions, progress of the program against pest problems and conditions, effectiveness of action thresholds, and to identify problem areas in the IPM system that may need to be modified or changed.

Notification

The School District will notify the school staff, students, parents and guardians prior to pesticide applications made in school buildings in accordance with Maryland regulations. Notices will be posted in designated areas at schools and sent home to parents/guardians of all students.

Copies of materials safety data sheets (MSDS) and product labels for each pesticide and bait station used on school property is maintained by the contact person. Persons wishing to review this information should contact Supporting Services to arrange an appointment. For additional information about the Integrated Pest Management Program, please contact 410-758-2403 x 140.

IPM STRATEGIES FOR OUTDOORS

TYPICAL PESTS

Mice and rats. Turf pests-broad-leaf and grassy weeds, insects such as beetle grubs or sod webworms, diseases such as brown patch, vertebrates such as moles. Ornamental plant pests-plant diseases and insects such as aphids, Japanese beetles, and bag worms.

PLAYGROUNDS, PARKING LOTS, ATHLETIC FIELDS, LOADING DOCKS and REFUSE DUMPSTERS

- Regularly clean trash containers and gutters and remove all waste, especially food and paper debris.
- Secure lids on trash containers.
- Repair cracks in pavement and sidewalks in a timely manner.
- Provide adequate drainage away from the structure and on the grounds.

TURF (lawns, athletic fields, and playgrounds)

- Maintain healthy turf by selecting a mixture of turf types (certified seed, sod, or plugs) best adapted for the area.
- Raise mowing height for turn to enhance its competition with weeds; adjust cutting height of mower, depending on the grass type; sharpen mower blades; and vary mowing patterns to help reduce soil compaction.
- Provide good drainage and periodically inspect turf for evidence of pests or diseases. Allow grass clippings to remain in the turf.
- Have soil tested by Certified Person to determine pH and fertilizer requirements.
- Time fertilizer application appropriately because excessive fertilizer can cause additional problems, including weed and disease outbreaks. Apply lime if necessary. Use aeration to place soil on top of thatch so that microbes from soil can decompose thatch.
- Seed over existing turf in fall and early spring.

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS AND TREES

- Apply fertilizer and nutrients to annuals and perennials during active growth and to Shrubs and trees during dormant season or early in the growing season.
- If using a fertilizer, use the correct one at the suitable time, water properly and reduce compaction.
- Prune branches to improve plants and prevent access by pests to structures.
- Select replacement plant material from among the many disease-resistant types being developed by plant breeders throughout the country.
- Correctly identify the pest in question. When in doubt, send several specimens to your local Cooperative Extension Service. Once the pest is identified, recommendations can be made.
- Remove susceptible plants if a plant disease recurs and requires too many resources, such as time, energy, personnel, or money. Some ornamental plants, trees and turf are so susceptible to plant diseases that efforts to keep them healthy may be useless.

USE OF PESTICIDES

Due to their potentially toxic nature, pesticides will be applied by qualified applicators in a manner to ensure maximum efficiency with minimal hazard. Pesticides should be applied only when occupants are not present in areas there they may be exposed to materials applied.

- The posting of a sign indicating the application of pesticides will conform to Maryland Department of Agriculture 15.05.01.15 regulations.

**ADDENDUM
TO THE
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN (IPM)
FOR QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
March 15, 2018

Exterior spray records performed by the Department of Parks & Recreation will all be maintained at the Board of Education Office. Contact Supporting Services Department at the Board of Education Queen Anne’s County if you wish to review these records. Contact number 410.758.2403 x 140.