

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries:

Responsible Office: Chief Operating Officer
Facilities Management

Pesticides Use in Schools

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to implement an integrated pest management program in accordance with the *Annotated Code of Maryland, Article - Agriculture*

II. DEFINITIONS

A. *Integrated Pest Management* is the use of combined pest control alternatives, most effective to prevent or reduce to acceptable levels pests and damage caused by pests.

B. *Pesticide* as defined in the law, means any substance or mixture of substances intended for:

1. Preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating a pest
2. Use as plant regulator, defoliant, or dessicant
3. Use as a spray such as a wetting agent or adhesive

Pesticide does not include:

1. An antimicrobial agent, such as a disinfectant, sanitizer or deodorizer, used for cleaning purposes
 2. A bait station
- C. *Space spraying* means application of a pesticide by discharge into the air throughout an area. It does not include crack and crevice treatment.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Contact Person

The Integrated Pest Management Supervisor in the Division of Maintenance will be the contact person and will manage all information on pest control efforts in the school system, including material safety data sheets and product label of each pesticide or bait station that may be used in schools, or on school grounds and site-specific information on pest control activities at each school.

B. Notification by Schools

1. At the beginning of each school year, schools will include notice of the school's integrated pest management system in information to parents. The notice will include the following information:
 - a) A statement that explains the school's integrated pest management system and a list of any pesticides or bait station that may be used in the school building or on school grounds as part of the integrated pest management system
 - b) A statement that:
 - (1) The contact person maintains the product label and material safety data sheet of each pesticide or bait station that may be used by the certified applicator in buildings and on school grounds
 - (2) The label and material safety data sheet is available for review by a parent, guardian, staff member, or student attending the school
 - (3) The contact person is available to parents, guardians, and staff members for information and comment
 - c) The name, address, and telephone number of the contact person
 - d) Instructions for including a parent/guardian or staff member on a pesticide notification list (see Section C)
 - e) Information about the opportunity to provide public comments on the Integrated Pest Management practices of the school system during the a public comments segment of each regularly scheduled Board meeting
2. After the start of each school year, written notification will be provided to each newly employed staff member in the orientation packets or to the

parent/guardian of a student newly enrolled in the new student information packet.

3. Notification Lists

- a. At the start of each school year, each middle and high school will develop a pesticide notification list containing each staff member and parent/guardian of a student attending the school who requests in writing prior notification of a pesticide application made in the school or on school grounds during the school year. Elementary schools are required to notify each parent or guardian of a student attending the school and each staff member regardless of whether they have requested prior notification.
- b. The school will keep the pesticide notification list current and add names upon written request by a parent or guardian of a student attending the school or a staff member.
- c. The school will make the pesticide notification list available upon request to representatives of the Department of Agriculture of the State of Maryland.

C. Pesticide Applications

1. Elementary Schools

At least 24 hours before the pesticide is applied in a school building, or on school grounds, the Integrated Pest Management Supervisor will provide the following information to the school principal who in turn will provide written notification to each parent/guardian and staff member:

- a) Common name of the pesticide
- b) Location of the application
- c) Planned date and time of the application
- d) The following language:

"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."

2. Middle or High Schools

The Integrated Pest Management Supervisor will provide information to the school's principal, allowing sufficient time for the principal to notify students and staff. Principals will provide written notification to each parent, guardian, or staff member on the pesticide notification list, post notices at the site of the application and in conspicuous locations such as bulletin boards commonly seen by students and staff, and make an announcement on the school's public announcement system at least 24 hours before the application of a pesticide.

3. Space Spraying of Pesticides

a) Although space spraying of pesticides is not practiced in Montgomery County Public Schools, in the unlikely event that space spraying becomes necessary, the written notification to parents/guardians, staff, and students will be made at least one week before the space spraying.

b) The notice will be on a separate sheet of paper at least 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches in size and shall contain the following information:

(1) Common name of the pesticide

(2) Location of the space spraying

(3) Planned date and time of space spraying

(4) The following language:

"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."

(5) If the pesticide is not addressed in the notice sent at the beginning of the school year, a brief description of the pesticide to be applied

- (6) A brief description of potential adverse effects based upon the material safety data sheet of the pesticides to be applied
 - (7) The name and telephone number of the Integrated Pest Management Supervisor who is the designated contact person
4. For application 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.
 5. If the actual date of application is more than 14 days later than the planned date provided in the notice, notice of the application required under this regulation shall be reissued.

D. Emergency Pesticide Applications

A pesticide may be applied in a school building or on school grounds without prior notification only if an emergency pest situation exists.

In the case of an emergency pesticide application in an elementary school building or school grounds, within 24 hours after pesticide application or on the next school day, the school will provide to each parent, guardian, or staff member:

1. Common name of the pesticide
2. Location of the application
3. Date and time of the application
4. The following language:

"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."

5. A brief description of potential adverse effects based upon the material safety data sheet of the pesticide applied

E. Use of Bait Stations

Before a bait station is used in a school, the Integrated Pest Management Supervisor and/or his staff will place a notice or sign on the door of the room in which the bait station is placed indicating the date of placement, the name of the contact person for additional information including information on potential adverse effects. The notice or sign will remain posted until the bait station is removed.

F. Public Comments

The Integrated Pest Management Supervisor or his designee will monitor and address public comments regarding the Integrated Pest Management program practices of MCPS.

Regulation History: New Regulation July 17, 2000.