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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

June 10, 2019

Lead Administrator Name
Official School Name
Mailing Address
Mailing City, State & Zip

Subject: The Use of Pesticides in Schools and School Properties

Dear Administrator,

Please share this letter with school personnel who have pest management responsibilities.

Are pesticides applied in your school to manage pests like insects, spiders, and rodents?

Do you know that your school has the responsibility of helping to protect children from exposure to those pesticides? And that you must notify parents or guardians prior to pesticide applications?

With this letter, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reaching out to you and other administrators to remind them of their responsibilities when persons apply pesticides at their schools.

Schools that use pesticides to manage pests must follow the requirements of Michigan's pesticide law, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, Part 83 Pesticide Control. These requirements include:

- Applying a pesticide according to its label directions.
- Developing an integrated pest management (IPM) plan.
- Notifying parents/guardians about the IPM plan and intended pesticide applications.

Our inspectors make pesticide inspections at schools to determine compliance with Act 451, Part 83 and its associated regulations. In 2016-2018, MDARD conducted 305 pesticide inspections at schools and found 1,949 violations pertaining to:

- Parental notification about pesticide applications (24%).
- Parental notification about the school's IPM program (37%).
- Pesticide application and IPM program recordkeeping (20%).
- IPM plan content and applicator training (15%).

MDARD addressed these violations with advisories, warnings, and administrative fines.

Integrated Pest Management Plan

Schools must have an IPM plan in place if they use or plan to use pesticides inside the school building. IPM is a system that uses a variety of tools and techniques to reduce keep pests at acceptable levels. Although pesticide applications may be part of an IPM plan, a plan considers other tools as well. Using an integrated approach can decrease or eliminate the need for pesticides. Following an IPM plan can help reduce the risk of children's exposure to pesticides at school.

Notifications

Schools applying pesticides must provide two specific types of notifications:

- Annual written notification within 30 days of the beginning of each school year to inform parents/guardians they will receive advance notice of pesticide applications in the school.
- Advance notice at least 48 hours prior to making a pesticide application at a school building (indoors or outdoors) by posting entrances of the school and by providing notice by one of the following methods:
 - Posting in a public, common area of the school (other than an entrance)
 - Email
 - Telephone contact to parents/guardians by direct call, or by leaving a recorded message
 - Written notice sent home with students
 - Notice posted on the school's website

This letter outlines only **some** of the requirements of Act 451, Part 83 for schools using pesticides. Please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/mdard-ipm for more detailed information about pesticide use at schools and how to comply with the law. You can also find resources for developing an IPM program and templates for your annual notification and advance notice.

If you have questions, please contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 and ask for the PPPM Pesticide Inspector covering your county and city.

Sincerely,



John Hill, Interim Pesticide Section Manager
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

cc: Jeffrey Zimmer, Deputy Division Director