



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

Personal Protective Equipment Guidance – Availability Concerns and Locating Alternative Pesticides

Personal protective equipment (PPE) may be in short supply during the 2020 growing season. With the critical need for N95 respirators in the healthcare field, there are few, if any, “dust/mist” type respirators or particulate filters (N, P, or HE) available in the marketplace. Distributors may not be accepting new orders at this time, and back-orders have delivery dates in June, July, or later.

Please be advised:

- Pesticides may **not** be applied without the label-required PPE.
- Homemade masks are **not** substitutes for label-required respirators/masks.
- **No** exemption or relaxation of the requirements has been made by EPA.
- Users may need to select alternative products or practices if required PPE is not available. For example, re-usable gloves can be washed and re-used in the absence of disposable gloves.

As some herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide labels **require respirators** to prevent unacceptable levels of exposure, please **plan ahead**:

- Review product labels to identify pesticides requiring respiratory protection.
- Evaluate existing inventory and/or availability of PPE.
- Seek alternative products or practices if PPE is not obtainable. There may be a very similar product available with different label requirements.

If you cannot find the PPE needed to apply a specific pesticide, switching to a different product will help your firm stay in compliance with state and federal pesticide use laws. The following websites may help you locate new options:

CDMS Label Database: <http://www.cdms.net/Label-Database>

- o Crop Data Management Systems (CDMS) works with key pesticide registrants, hosting their current labels and Safety Data Sheets online.

Agrian: <https://home.agrian.com/>

- o Works with manufacturers to have labels and other supporting documents. This search engine has a safety tab listing the PPE requirements without having to search the label. The pesticide label can also be referenced.

USDA’s Integrated Pest Management Database: <https://ipmdata.ipmcenters.org/>

- Documents include common pests by crop, and a variety of pest management options.

NPIC's Product Research Online: <http://npic.orst.edu/NPRO>

- Search for federally registered pesticides by crop, by pest/weed, and read labels online.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development encourages you to stay safe this growing season. Using the correct PPE ensures that you don't find yourself needing the help of emergency responders or medical staff due to an exposure incident.

For more information, visit MDARD on the web at www.michigan.gov/mdardpest or call 1-800-292-3939.