

What About the Healthy Schools Act Requirements for Child Care Centers?



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Introduction

What is the Healthy Schools Act?

When pesticides are used at schools and child care centers in California, the Healthy Schools Act defines requirements for school and child care center staff, pest management professionals, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation. The California Legislature originally passed the law in 2000. The Healthy Schools Act also encourages schools and child care centers—collectively referred to as schoolsites—to adopt effective, low-risk pest management practices, also known as integrated pest management or IPM.

What is IPM?

Integrated pest management, or IPM, focuses on effective, low-risk pest management practices. IPM is a big picture approach to pest management that considers people and the environment when pest management decisions are made. There are a variety of IPM practices, including cleaning regularly, closing gaps into buildings, fixing leaky pipes, setting traps, and choosing low-risk pesticides. With the amount of IPM information available today and an enthusiastic IPM leader, all schoolsites can successfully manage pests!

This booklet is a resource designed to help you better understand the Healthy Schools Act requirements, as they pertain to licensed child care centers, in order to promote the adoption of IPM at child care centers.

What About the IPM Coordinator?



Do you know who your child care center's IPM Coordinator is?

Child care centers that fall under the Healthy Schools Act must designate a staff member to serve as the IPM Coordinator.

Who should it be?

Usually it is the child care center director, but it can be anyone who is involved with the ongoing operations of the child care center.

What do they do?

The IPM Coordinator works with administrators, staff, parents, and guardians to make sure the child care center complies with all of the Healthy Schools Act requirements.

Why does every child care center need an IPM Coordinator?

It's a requirement under the law. With a designated IPM Coordinator it's easier for DPR to provide updates on the law, training opportunities, and pest management resources.

How does the IPM Coordinator let DPR know they are the contact?

The designee should email DPR at ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov and make sure to send an update if the contact changes.

What About the IPM Plan?



Does your child care center have an updated and posted IPM plan?

A child care center needs an IPM plan when pesticides are used on site.

Where does the IPM plan need to be posted?

The IPM plan must be posted on the child care center's website. If the child care center does not have a website, then the IPM plan must be provided to all staff, parents, and guardians. The IPM plan must also be available by request at the front office.

What needs to be on the IPM plan?

- The name of the child care center's IPM coordinator
- All pesticides (such as weed killers and insecticides) expected to be applied at the center by child care staff and licensed pest management professionals
- A date when the plan will be reviewed and revised, if necessary

What About HSA Training?



Has everyone at your child care center received their annual HSA training?

Anyone who applies a pesticide at a child care center must take a DPR-approved Healthy Schools Act training course. This may include IPM Coordinators, child care center staff, property owners, and any licensed pest management professionals if they use pesticides like disinfectants, insecticides, and weed killers.

How often does the HSA training need to be completed?

- IPM Coordinators, child care center staff, and property owners must take the training annually
- Licensed pest management professionals must take the training once during each license renewal period

How can I take HSA training?

There are a few ways to take HSA training.

- DPR Online Training Courses
 - Integrated Germ Management (IGM) - Designed for child care center providers who use sanitizers and disinfectants as part of their daily activities
 - Basic IPM for the Classroom and Office Environment - Designed for anyone who wants to understand the basics of IPM, but may not perform schoolsite pest management themselves
- DVD Group Training Kit
 - Request a kit by email: ccipmplist@cdpr.ca.gov
 - Each kit includes IGM and Basic IPM on DVD, instructions, sign-in sheets, quizzes, quiz keys, certificates, and other training materials
- Approved 3rd-Party Training Courses

What About Warning Signs?



When should a warning sign be posted?

Pesticide application warning signs need to be posted 24 hours before and 72 hours after an application. Warning signs are still required when children are not present and during school breaks.

Emergency conditions, as defined by California Education Code §1709, may require an immediate pesticide application. If this is the case, the warning signs need to be posted as soon as possible and remain posted 72 hours after the application.

Where should I post the warning sign?

Warning signs must be posted at the pesticide application area and not just in the front office. The intent of the Healthy Schools Act is to provide pesticide use information to parents and staff, so that they can make better informed decisions.

What do the warning signs need to say?

Warning signs must prominently display the term “Warning/Pesticide Treated Area” and include:

- Product name(s)
- Manufacturer name(s)
- U.S. EPA product registration number(s)
- Scheduled date(s) of application
- Areas of application
- Reason for the application (the target pest)

Remember, the warning sign must be visible to anyone entering a treated area.

What About Notification?



What needs to be on the annual notification?

- A list of all pesticide products and their active ingredients expected to be applied during the year by child care staff and licensed pest management professionals
- A link to the DPR website: www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm
- The opportunity for recipients to register to receive notifications about individual pesticide applications

When should I send out the annual notification?

The notification must be provided annually to parents, guardians, and staff. Many centers choose to include it in their parent handbook issued at the beginning of each school year.

What if you want to use a pesticide that is not listed on the annual notification?

The IPM Coordinator must provide written notification of the pesticide not listed on the annual notification to all parents, guardians, and staff at least 72 hours before the application.

When is notification not required?

Advanced notification is not required under emergency conditions, as defined by California Education Code §17609. However, you must notify as soon as possible.

What About the Notification Registry?



Does your child care center have an individual notification registry set up?

As part of the annual written notification, a child care center must provide parents, guardians, and staff the opportunity to register to receive notifications of individual pesticide applications. The people on the registry must receive notifications at least 72 hours before each pesticide application.

What needs to be on the individual notification?

- Product name(s)
- Active ingredient(s)
- Intended date for the application

How should the individual notification be sent out?

Your center can decide what form of communication is best for those on your registry. It can be by email, phone call, or paper flyers.

What About Record Keeping?



Is your child care center keeping records of all pesticide applications?

Each child care center must keep records of every pesticide application made on site, including those made by licensed pest management professionals.

Licensed pest management professionals are also required to keep records of their pesticide applications at child care centers.

How can I keep a record of the pesticide applications made?

Warning signs have most of the required information. By adding the amount of pesticide product used to the warning sign, it can be saved as a complete record. Records must always include:

- Pesticide product name(s)
- Manufacturer name(s)
- U.S. EPA registration number(s)
- Date of application
- Area of application
- Reason for application
- Amount of pesticide product used

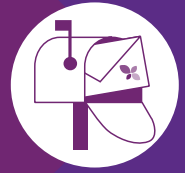
How long do I have to keep records?

Child care centers must keep records of all pesticide applications made at the school site for 4 years.

Does the public have access to the child care center's pesticide use records?

Records must be available to the public upon request as paper or electronic copies.

What About Reporting?



Does your child care center need to submit pesticide use reports (PUR)?

Pesticide use reports must be submitted to DPR when anyone uses a pesticide at a child care center.

If a licensed pest management professional applies pesticides at a child care center, then they will submit pesticide use reports to DPR. However, the child care center is still responsible for posting warning signs and keeping records of all pesticide applications made on site.

Which form should I use?

Use form DPR-HSA-118, Pesticide Use Reporting for School and Child Care Employees. Using this form, fill in the spaces with:

- Name and address of your center
- Specific date and time of the application
- U.S. EPA registration number of the product
- Undiluted amount of pesticide used

Note: When reporting the amount of pesticide product used, you must report the concentrated amount, meaning the undiluted amount of product used.

When is the deadline to submit PURs?

January 30th is the deadline to submit PURs for the previous year's applications. PURs must be mailed to DPR.

You can mail pesticide use reports to:

School Pesticide Use Reporting
Department of Pesticide Regulation
P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812

What About Exempt Products?



My child care center staff only use disinfectant wipes, do we need to follow all of the Healthy Schools Act requirements?

Antimicrobial pesticides (disinfectants and sanitizers), self-contained bait stations, gels or pastes used as crack-and-crevice treatments, and pesticides exempt from U.S. EPA registration are exempt from these Healthy Schools Act requirements:

- IPM Plan
- Posting warning signs
- Sending annual notification
- Record keeping
- Individual notification
- Reporting

Remember: Disinfectants and sanitizers are antimicrobial pesticides. Training is required when antimicrobial pesticides are used at a child care center.

We want to help you comply with the law!

For more information on these requirements:



<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/schoolipm/>



ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov