



July 3, 2020

TO: Interested Persons

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE WITH PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
REQUIREMENTS FOR PESTICIDES DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY –
JULY UPDATE

On April 29, 2020, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) issued a letter on personal protective equipment (PPE) noting that the COVID-19 emergency has resulted in a shortage of PPE (e.g., respirators, gloves, eyewear, protective clothing) in the normal supply chain for pesticide applicators and handlers who are required to wear PPE for protection from pesticide exposure (enclosed). In that letter, DPR noted that it would continue to monitor PPE supplies and work with regulatory partners to address shortages.

On June 1, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) released its PPE guidance for pesticide handlers in production agriculture, “Statement Regarding Respiratory Protection Shortages and Reduced Availability of Respirator Fit Testing Related to Pesticide Uses Covered by the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” (enclosed).

We continue to work with county agricultural commissioners, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of General Services, and the Governor’s Office on the prompt procurement of PPE for pesticide handling. Distribution of certain PPE supplies for agriculture has begun, but in the event that supplies of PPE required for pesticide handling prove insufficient (i.e. N95s), DPR and the California Environmental Protection Agency are partnering in the review and evaluation of the June 1 U.S. EPA guidance. In the meantime, DPR’s guidance, as stated in the April 29, 2020 interested persons letter, is still applicable, and DPR and county agricultural commissioners will continue to enforce PPE requirements on pesticide product labels and PPE-related regulations under Title 3, California Code of Regulations sections 6738–6739 to protect worker health and safety.

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DPR is committed to pesticide worker protection while being mindful of the need for PPE used to support essential businesses and services. If you have questions or concerns relating to PPE, please contact me at the number below or Nan.Singhasemanon@cdpr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nan Singhasemanon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nan Singhasemanon
Assistant Director
916-445-3984

Enclosures