



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 16, 2006

WHS 06-02

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: PHYSICIAN PESTICIDE ILLNESS REPORTS FACILITATED BY
CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is negotiating a contract with the California Poison Control System (CPCS) to report pesticide illness incidents for physicians. We hope to have an agreement in place for this summer. As in the past, CPCS would offer to fulfill the reporting requirement on behalf of physicians who consult CPCS about pesticide cases. Cooperation with CPCS has provided notification much more promptly than our other routes, and broadened our coverage.

Technical advances at CPCS now allow a more secure method of transmitting reports, as required by recent legal developments (primarily the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), to which CPCS is subject). In the past, reports were faxed to you by CPCS. Under the new agreement and consistent with the law, CPCS will have the capability to notify county health officers and commissioners by e-mail that a pesticide illness report is available on a secure web site. CPCS would work with health officers and commissioners to establish procedures for accessing information from the web site. Commissioners who set up this electronic process will ensure the most expedited access to pesticide illness reports to initiate their investigations. Otherwise, commissioners would receive the reports from local health officer or DPR's, Worker Health and Safety Branch after they are processed and delivered, a delay of several days to weeks.

In order to receive notification of these reports electronically, each commissioner would need to designate a person with an e-mail address to which CPCS will send notification messages, along with a voice line CPCS can use if necessary to check on or investigate problems. The email address and phone number cannot be a general number; it has to go to a person to receive the notification. Text messaging devices (blackberries or cell phones) are acceptable as recipient addresses. In order to help implement this project, please send a message to Dr. Louise Mehler of the Worker Health and Safety Branch at lmehler@cdpr.ca.gov, specifying the person to receive notification along with their e-mail address and telephone number by June 9, 2006.



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If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Mehler by telephone at (916) 445-4190, or by e-mail at lmehler@cdpr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

(original signed by S. Edmiston for C. Andrews)

Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4222

cc: Jim Shattuck, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison, DPR
Dr. Louise Mehler, Associate Toxicologist, WHS, DPR