School & Child Care IPM Outreach Summary

2020

Department of Pesticide Regulation
The Healthy Schools Act

Legal Reference and Intent

Food and Agricultural Code section 13182: It is the policy of the state that effective least toxic pest management practices should be the preferred method of managing pests at schoolsites and that the state, in order to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides, shall take the necessary steps, pursuant to this article, to facilitate the adoption of effective least toxic pest management practices at schoolsites.

Legal Agency for Compliance Assistance

California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Branch
School and Child Care IPM Programs
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Key Contacts for DPR

Aimee Norman, IPM Branch Chief
Lisa Estridge, Urban IPM Unit Manager

How to get more information

E-mail: school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov
Website at: www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/schoolipm
The Department of Pesticide Regulation’s School and Child Care Integrated Pest Management Programs conduct outreach and education activities to facilitate the voluntary adoption of effective, least-toxic pest management practices—also known as integrated pest management (IPM)—at schoolsites throughout California. Schoolsites, a term defined in the Healthy Schools Act, include public K – 12 schools and many licensed child care centers. Our IPM Programs communicate frequently with stakeholders and our staff are readily available to the public to help with pest management related inquiries.

We are committed to assisting California schoolsites with their pest management goals and to encouraging the use of effective, least-toxic pest management practices. We are pleased to bring you this summary, which includes an overview of our 2020 outreach and education activities.

Sincerely,

Lisa Estridge

Lisa Estridge
The Healthy Schools Act requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to facilitate the voluntary adoption of IPM at schoolsites. To fulfill this mandate, the DPR School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs conduct outreach and education activities and provide Healthy Schools Act compliance assistance to schoolsites throughout California.

In 2020, the work done by the School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs was largely influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many new resources focused on the proper use of disinfectants and surface sanitizers, and in-person outreach and education activities quickly transitioned to virtual events. Through all the difficulties experienced during 2020, stakeholder engagement continued to be the top priority for our Programs.
The Healthy Schools Act requires school and child care staff to complete an annual training course before applying pesticides, including disinfecting wipes, at a schoolsite. The training course must be provided by DPR or a third-party agency approved by DPR, and include information about IPM and the safe use of pesticides in relation to the unique nature of schoolsites and children’s health.

109,113 people completed a training course in 2020, a 96% increase from 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DPR Online Training</th>
<th>DPR Group Training</th>
<th>DPR School IPM Workshop*</th>
<th>DPR Child Care IPM Workshop*</th>
<th>Third Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>17,551</td>
<td>35,510</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>9,864</td>
<td>95,754</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Workshops were conducted virtually in 2020.
**Education Activities: DPR Online Training Courses**

DPR offers three free, online Healthy Schools Act training courses. Overall, course completions mirrored a similar pattern to 2019 with an enrollment spike in March 2020 coinciding with the beginning of the pandemic and with most course completions occurring in August in anticipation of the new school year.

200% increase in trainings completed in month of August, comparing 2020 to 2019

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**Online trainings by year and month**

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**Online training course totals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DPR Online Training Course</th>
<th>2019 Total Trained</th>
<th>2020 Total Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic IPM for Classroom and Office Environments</td>
<td>28,992</td>
<td>65,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic IPM ..., Spanish</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>1,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Germ Management (IGM)</td>
<td>4,635</td>
<td>21,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Germ Management (IGM), Spanish</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Pest Management</td>
<td>1,404</td>
<td>8,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Trained</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,510</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,754</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education Activities: Workshops

In 2020, School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs hosted virtual workshops for the first time. The transition to virtual format greatly expanded both Programs' reach to training audiences, resulting in higher attendance.

School IPM workshop attendance increased 106% compared to 2019 with addition of virtual workshops.

123 child care health and safety trainers attended in-person and virtual Train-the-Trainer Workshops—offered for the first time in 2020.

School IPM: Attendees participated in an interactive virtual inspection of a school campus.

Child Care IPM: February 2020, first Train-the-Trainer workshop event was held in person. All events following moved to virtual platform.
**Resources:** Healthy Schools Act

Both School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs staff created new resources in response to COVID-19. Topics included safe use of disinfectants at schools and child care centers, differences between cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

DPR created 57% more user resources for antimicrobial pesticides in 2020.
Resources: Integrated Pest Management

The School IPM Recordkeeping Calendar received a makeover in 2020. The 2020 – 2021 school year calendar is now pocket-sized to improve functionality for staff managing pests at schoolsites. It includes helpful pest identification guides, IPM strategies, and pest monitoring charts.

User content expanded by **57%** compared to 2019 calendar
Outreach Events

School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs staff hosted and participated in 11 professional speaking engagements throughout 2020, despite the unexpected challenges and limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Audience members included: child care center staff, school staff, government agencies, researchers, and industry professionals.

232 attended a DPR virtual Brown Bag event, a 673% increase in attendance compared to the previous in-person school IPM Brown Bag event in 2017.

2020 PUR Workgroup

School IPM Program staff discussed the effects of local climate conditions and soil temperatures on herbicide applications at schools. This annual Pesticide Use Reporting Workgroup event highlights research related to pesticide use in California.

Response to SARS-CoV-19

Child Care IPM Program staff presented at 7 events. Topics focused on safe use of antimicrobial pesticides, pesticides and indoor air quality, and Healthy Schools Act requirements.

DPR Brown Bag Lunch webinar

School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs hosted and presented during our first-ever DPR virtual Brown Bag event. 52 DPR licensees received continuing education credit from attending the 2020 event.
Data-driven Outreach

Both the School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs utilize school pesticide use reporting (SPUR) data to guide outreach efforts.

In 2020, the School IPM Program used SPUR data to identify insecticide application patterns by school staff. Program staff created custom IPM outreach materials for three districts and connected school staff with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources expert strategies.

DPR initiated customized data-driven outreach efforts for districts to reduce pesticide use, benefiting approximately 12,000 students.

School District Success
Reducing Herbicide Applications

Using SPUR data, School IPM Program staff identified a school district's accomplishment in reducing herbicide applications and then created a video that highlighted the success story for others. This southern California school district has accomplished a 64% reduction in herbicide use over the past 4 years.

2016: 867 Applications / Year, 15.2 Applications / School
2017: 541 Applications / Year, 9.5 Applications / School
2018: 442 Applications / Year, 7.8 Applications / School
2019: 310 Applications / Year, 5.8 Applications / School
Digital Communication: Listservs

School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs engage stakeholders by sending informative listserv emails. In 2020, listserv notifications included promotions for new School and Child Care IPM resources, training event invitations, and custom IPM-themed greetings. Total listserv messages in 2020 matched the 2019 total.

School IPM Program sent 15 listservs to their 2,926 subscribers

Child Care IPM Program sent 18 listservs to their 1,935 subscribers
Together with the DPR Community IPM Program, staff created a collection of IPM-focused social media posts and videos in English and Spanish to reach target audience groups quickly on popular platforms. These resources offered helpful IPM tips for homeowners—an increased need heightened by more time spent at home due to the pandemic.

- **26 IPM social media posts in English and Spanish**
- **21 social media videos in English and Spanish**
Conclusion

Our outreach and education activities in 2020 addressed unique circumstances and stakeholder needs. Stakeholders responded to School IPM and Child Care IPM Programs’ resources by taking DPR Healthy Schools Act online training, attending workshops and events, and viewing social media content.

Overall stakeholder engagement through training and workshop attendance increased by 97% compared to 2019.

Thank you for making safe pesticide use a priority for schools and child care centers in 2020.

Information about School IPM workshops:
school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov
Information about Child Care IPM workshops:
ccipmlist@cdpr.ca.gov
Not sure which training course to take?
https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/schoolipm/training/what_hsa_course_should_i_take.pdf

Our mission is to protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management.

www.cdpr.ca.gov