



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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TO: Parents/Guardians of Milton Public School Students

FROM: William F. Ritchie
Consolidated Facilities Director/IPM Coordinator

DATE: September 2, 2015

RE: Information Concerning Integrated Pest Management Program ("IPM")

Parents, community organizations and advocacy groups continue to express a desire to know that schools are using pesticides safely and judiciously. Many school districts, including Milton, continue to reevaluate and improve their pest management policies, procedures and programs.

Federal Legislation (Act Protecting Children and Families from Harmful Pesticides-Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2000) that amends the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act (Chapter 132B of the M.G.L.) took effect on November 1, 2000.

Beginning November 1, 2001 all public and private schools that serve preschool, elementary, middle or high school students have instituted Integrated Pest Management Plan(s).

A brief overview of Milton Public Schools (IPM) Plan

Our IPM program identifies methods for control of insects, rodents and weeds at all of our five buildings. Our approach focuses on making each school building and the associated grounds unfavorable habitats for pests by removing food and potential water sources. We continue to accomplish this through routine cleaning and maintenance. We routinely monitor all school buildings and grounds to detect the presence of pests. Pest sightings are reported to the IPM coordinator, who evaluates the problem(s) and determines the appropriate response(s).

We use chemicals only when necessary to eliminate or to control a problem(s). Our school system has continued to use minimal amount of pesticides and uses products that are least toxic or non-toxic.

What is an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program?

An IPM is a plan that adopts and publicizes integrated pest management policies and practices to prevent, reduce or eliminate pesticide use. When pesticides are deemed essential, the least-toxic alternative shall be selected.

Schools will post warning signs at the main entrance of the school and elsewhere as required by law. Warning signs will be in place for at least 48 hours following any pesticide application whenever pesticides are applied indoors or outdoors.

Schools will maintain and make available to parents and school personnel records of any pesticide application, the name and the quantity of the pesticides applied, the dates of the application and the location of such treatments.

IPM balances the concern for proper and minimal use of pesticides around the children and others working in or using school buildings and grounds with the need to protect them from pest-induced health threats. Schools that put an IPM program in place are able to manage pests effectively while addressing pesticide concerns.

Manage Pests Effectively

IPM is a verifiable way to manage pests. When an IPM program is implemented, current practices are carefully documented so that reductions in pesticide use and transitions to less toxic materials can be demonstrated and measured. Anticipating pest problems saves time and money, IPM practitioners prevent potential pests by eliminating conducive conditions, detecting pests early before their populations can grow, and by establishing a building history so that pest occurrence can be predicted.

Ensure Quality Control

IPM provides a way for the school and pest control operator to document the quality of pest management activities in the building. Products, associated areas and purpose are documented in records that are readily accessible. The monitoring system within the school is available at any time. We are currently in the process of updating all of our IPM plans which will be available on the Web. Currently, our Collicot and Cunningham Schools can be accessed via the Web.

We continue to provide notice of any specific pesticide used to anyone who requests this information. To request this notification, please contact William F. Ritchie, Consolidated Facilities Director at 617-898-4930 or by email at britchie@townofmilton.org.

We also continue to provide individuals on our Pesticide Notification List with notice of any use of pesticides or chemicals used to control insects, rodents, or turf issues (weeds and poison ivy). We continue to provide notice either in writing or by phone at least five working days prior to any application. The notice will include the following information:

- Who will make the pesticide application
- Name of the pesticide to be used
- EPA Registration number
- Purpose for making the pesticide application
- Area to be treated
- Date and approximate time of the schedule application



William F. Ritchie CPE, CFA
Consolidated Facilities Director

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The Milton Public School system is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the provision of quality educational programs for all students. The Milton Public School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, age or sexual orientation.