

CEHPAC IAQ & Schools Workgroup Status Report

May 16, 2023

===PROPOSED CEHPAC ACTION ITEMS: IAQ and PESTICIDE USE in Maryland Schools===

These proposed steps incorporate ongoing Workgroup Status Report items and are consistent with CEHPAC's statutory duty to "**Gather and disseminate information to the public**, including the research and medical communities, community-based organizations, **schools, and State agencies**, on how to reduce, treat, and eliminate children's exposures to environmental hazards to further the public's understanding of the environmental hazards that may potentially affect children" and "**recommend uniform guidelines for State agencies to follow** to help reduce and eliminate children's exposure to environmental hazards, especially in areas reasonably accessible to children." [Article - Health - General §13-1506 (4) and (5)]

1) **CEHPAC Letter to Maryland Legislature** reporting CEHPAC Findings and Preliminary Recommendations under the MD legislature's request that CEHPAC Review the December 1, 2022 MDA JCR IPM in Schools Report. The correspondence should request support by the Legislature necessary to facilitate the full implementation of the 1997 School IPM Law (ie. budget, increased capacity needs for both MDA and BOEs (including school level), etc.) and any other laws (i.e. Green Cleaning, IAQ, etc.) ensuring that Maryland children are fully protected under existing Maryland law. The Letter should also request to that the General Assembly fill the vacant positions for both Senator and House representation on CEHPAC. Future recommendations from CEHPAC could include expanding existing laws to Child Care Centers, Day Care Centers and Private Schools, etc.

ACTION ITEM #1: CEHPAC review and approval of Draft letter [attached to this status report].

2) **Clarification of Law's Components and State Agency Requirements** by Judiciary Branch. Work with Office of the Attorney General on presentation to CEHPAC, State Agencies and Stakeholders to clarify Scope of Laws (including identifying known gaps), Components and Agency Requirements.

a) **MDA** - Clarify BOE Requirements for Each Component of the Law (e.g. model BOE IPM Policy, BOE IPM System (Requirements) and DOE IPM Plans for both Structural and Grounds IPM).

b) **BOE** - Clarify BOE and DOE Requirements for Each Component of the Law and communicate clarification via CEHPAC Letter to each BOE.

ACTION ITEM 2: CEHPAC arrange for "Clarification of Law" presentation (or symposium, work session, etc.).

3) **Identify and Review Resources** –

a) **Review existing MDA IPM in School Resources and Training Materials.** Refer to detailed published review of MDA training materials (attached and at url: <https://mdpestnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/MPN-ManualReviewReport911.pdf>) and make recommendations and provide guidance per CEHPAC Statute. Expand Scope to include Training/Communications (schools and parents), IAQ, Green Cleaning, Safer Disinfectants, etc. By next fall identify webinar(s) (recorded) as a resource for parents/grandparents, community members and IPM Coordinators (eg explain why do schools send letters to parents, what to do with information, etc.). Make webinars available to the public (e.g. post on CEHPAC website as resources).

b) Determine "Next Steps" per CEHPAC's 2021 IPM Motion "COVID-19 and Integrated Pest Management in Maryland Public School" for

- i. How to ensure "prompt school-based transparent public and open data reporting of EPA registered pesticides" [i.e. when and why did schools resort to chemical means of pest control and what IPM Solutions are needed to avoid such applications (per required annual review of plans, application records, etc.).]
- ii. How to update "each school districts' compliance with and implementation of the Maryland School IPM Law, to include a mandated policy and update the regulations and the required written policies to include EPA registered pesticide products used to control pathogens, based on a review of the of COVID-19 pandemic information and guidance provided by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)".

ACTION ITEM #3: By next fall identify webinars(s) (recorded) as a resources and COVID-19 updates for review by CEHPAC.

4) Action Items reported to CEHPAC in the March 21, 2023 Workgroup Status Report: The IAQ & Schools Workgroup can continue to navigate through primary action needs with specific recommendations to the CEHPAC for further decisions on the best approach forward. Examples of needed actions that have come up through the Workgroup activities (including initial discussions with IPM School Coordinators) include:

- a) Education of parents and school systems on the importance of the School IPM Law and need to support the School IPM Coordinators in their work to implement practices.
- b) Assisting MDA with updating the related content on their website.
- c) Ensuring that school IPM plans that are indicated as "Plan TBD" in the MDA IPM in Schools report are actually followed up with to confirm that the plan was indeed established, with a current copy of that plan available.
- d) Considering ways to enhance school construction policies so that wood framing is not kept in a completed new structure. (This has been a problem with termites).
- e) Encouraging all School Boards to make all IPM School Plans as well as Application Records readily accessible available to the public at the school level.

ACTION ITEM #4: CEHPAC desires that the IAQ & Schools Workgroup should continue to navigate through primary action needs with specific recommendations to the CEHPAC for further decisions

5) Allow IAQ & Schools Workgroup to review and present on CEHPAC's past actions and potential future actions related to the protection of children and their school environment during construction, maintenance, custodial and renovation activities. Include summary of past bills introduced and supported by CEHPAC. Take a fresh look issue and CEHPAC contributions to solutions.

ACTION ITEM #5: CEHPAC review of needs and future actions.