



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025
9:00am – 10:30am**

MINUTES

Members:

Subha Chandar (Chair)
Ben Gitterman
Frederick Banks (Vice Chair)
Del. Mary Lehman
Megan Weil Latshaw
Nse Witherspoon
Alexander Lehmann
Paul Ferraro
Matthew McConaughy

Kylan Simpson (staff)

Guests:

Michael Ichniowski
Veronika Carella

Welcome

- Subha Chandar (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed all council members, agency representatives, and attendees. She briefly reviewed the meeting objectives and noted that today's agenda would focus on follow-up actions from the recent joint CEHPAC/CEJSC meeting, updates on Motion #3 regarding pesticide use in schools, review of proposed Medicaid regulatory changes, discussion of the annual CEHPAC report, and a presentation on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in schools.

Old Business

Debrief from Joint CEHPAC/CEJSC Meeting

- Subha Chandar provided an overview of the joint CEHPAC/CEJSC meeting. She highlighted a major discussion item—the Governor's new Executive Order on Environmental Justice and the creation of an inter-agency council led by MDE. Frederick Banks (Vice Chair) and others emphasized the increasing use of environmental justice (EJ) scores in permit decision-making and the importance of transparent, data-driven approaches.

- Council members discussed the need for formal engagement with the Governor’s Office to share CEHPAC’s priorities, particularly concerning childhood poverty, early childhood education, and K–12 school environments. Nse Witherspoon encouraged CEHPAC to schedule a meeting with the Governor or First Lady to communicate recommendations and highlight the intersection of environmental justice and children’s health.
- Concerns were raised about significant data gaps, especially the lack of statewide reporting on pesticides, including PFAS-containing chemicals. Members emphasized the need for stronger data systems to inform public health policy and future CEHPAC recommendations.
- Members also discussed the need to improve public communication about environmental health risks, including lead, PFAS, and air quality. Suggestions included:
 - o Regular fact sheets
 - o A “State of Maryland’s Children” report
 - o Highlighting CEHPAC’s advisory authority to the Governor and legislature

Update on Motion #3 (2021) – Pesticide Use in Schools

- Frederick Banks provided an update on Motion #3 regarding pesticide use in schools. In response to CEHPAC’s 2021 directive, MSDE, MDH, and MDA have been meeting to review pesticide use practices, assess compliance with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies, and discuss district-level implementation challenges.
- Veronika Carella reiterated that while some districts submit acceptable plans, many IPM plans remain inconsistent, outdated, or incomplete. She referenced counties using minimal, inadequate templates or plans with handwritten changes, which demonstrates a lack of standardization and oversight. Carella emphasized that pesticide exposure remains a serious threat to children, and CEHPAC must continue pushing for transparency and stronger compliance.
- Members agreed that CEHPAC should continue working with MDA and MSDE to understand barriers faced by school district IPM coordinators and develop strategies for training, accountability, and communication.

New Business

Presentation by Veronika Carella on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools

- Veronika Carella delivered a detailed presentation on current IPM practices and compliance challenges across Maryland’s school systems. She outlined key findings from her coalition’s review of district plans, including:
 - o Evidence of widespread inconsistencies in how districts submit and maintain their IPM plans
 - o A need for standardized templates to support full compliance
 - o Concerns about outdated guidance documents and uneven training requirements
 - o The risk of losing institutional knowledge due to retirements of experienced IPM staff
 - o Parent and teacher concerns about pesticide use in school buildings
- Carella presented a Model IPM Plan, developed in collaboration with CEHPAC partners, that includes:
 - o A standardized policy framework
 - o System-level guidance
 - o Templates for notification, posting, and communication

- Updated best practices to replace outdated manuals
- Council members, including Nse Witherspoon and Paul Ferraro, emphasized the importance of ensuring that the model plan is user-friendly and informed by school personnel who carry out day-to-day implementation.
- Alexander Lehmann (MDA) clarified that although MDA's internal records show all districts with approved plans, discrepancies exist between official submissions and documents available publicly. Members agreed that CEHPAC should consider facilitating training sessions for school districts to support consistent IPM practices statewide.

Medicaid Regulations

- Subha Chandar announced that Maryland Medicaid has officially revised its regulations by lowering the actionable blood lead level from 5 µg/dL to 3.5 µg/dL, aligning with CDC guidance. This change allows reimbursement for environmental investigations for children in the 3.5–5 µg/dL range, closing a long-standing gap in state practice.
- Frederick Banks noted that this update is especially important because each drop in the threshold has historically doubled the number of children qualifying for investigation. He emphasized that more children will now receive environmental assessments earlier, increasing opportunities for early intervention.
- Subha also noted that MDH now holds the necessary NPI (National Provider Identifier) required for Medicaid reimbursement for these investigations, enabling the Department to move forward operationally.

Update on Annual CEHPAC Report

- Subha Chandar provided an overview of the upcoming CEHPAC Annual Report. Key elements include:
 - Standard legislative reporting requirements (membership, statutory roles, priorities)
 - A summary of issues discussed during the reporting period (July–June)
 - Updates on pesticide legislation, PFAS, the Clean Trucks Act, and environmental justice initiatives
 - Inclusion of CEHPAC's letter to Montgomery County Public Schools regarding construction-related health concerns and the district's response
 - Inclusion of the letter to MDA regarding pesticide reporting and the Department's reply
- Noted membership updates, including:
 - Addition of Frederick Banks (MDE, Vice Chair)
 - Ongoing vacancies for Parent/Guardian, Academic Institution, and Private Industry seats
- Subha also discussed incorporating MD EnviroScreen data to identify priority issues for 2026 and strengthening ties with CEJSC to coordinate cumulative impact discussions.

Public Comment

- Michael Ichniowski and Veronika Carella expressed strong concern about proposed federal changes to pesticide preemption laws and PFAS definitions, emphasizing the need for CEHPAC to remain vigilant and advocate for Maryland's stronger protections.

Adjourn

- Subha Chandar thanked all attendees and council members. She outlined follow-up steps, including:
 - Frederick Banks to prepare an expanded update on pesticide use in schools for the next meeting
 - Megan Latshaw to lead follow-up regarding Montgomery County Schools
 - CEHPAC staff to prepare outreach recommendations for future meetings
 - Inclusion of joint CEHPAC/CEJSC activities in the annual report
 - Continuing prioritization discussions among members

Presentation by Veronika Carella on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools



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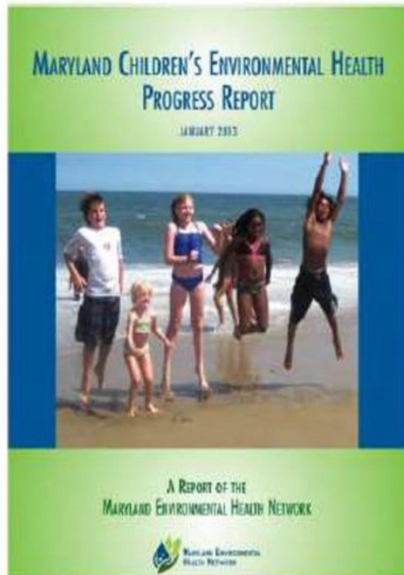
NGO 'hats'

MD Children's Environmental Health Coalition – Legislative Director
Maryland Pesticide Education Network (and MPN) – School IPM Liaison
Healthy Schools Network – National Advisor and Coalition for Healthier Schools (CHS) member
School IPM 2015/2020 Project – NE School IPM Working Group charter member

State Commissions (appointed positions)

MD Children's Environmental Health & Protection Advisory Council [CEHPAC] (2008-May 2020)
MD Health in All Policies Working Group (2017-2019 CEHPAC Liaison)

Maryland Children's Environmental Health Progress Report



- **Pesticides** are a serious threat to Maryland's children. Just one exposure at a critical stage of fetal or child development can have long-term health consequences. Of the forty pesticides commonly used in homes and schools, 28 may cause cancer, 26 can affect reproduction, 26 are nervous system poisons, 14 can affect the endocrine system, and 13 can cause birth defects. As this breakdown illustrates, many pesticides have multiple health effects.

SOURCE: <http://mdehndotorg.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/mehn-mceh-report4.pdf>

URL: <https://marylandpirg.org/sites/pirg/files/reports/MEHN-MCEH-Report5.pdf>

How the Environment Affects Your Health

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S.
Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Toxicology Program

Conceptual Shift for Environmental Health Sciences

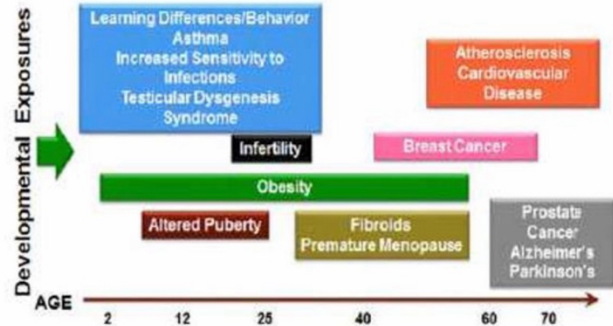
OLD... chemicals act by overwhelming the body's defenses by brute force at very high doses

NEW... chemicals can act like hormones and drugs to disrupt the control of development and function at very low doses to which the average person is exposed

NEW... susceptibility to disease persists long after exposure (epigenetics)



Examples of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHAD)



Refer to url: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/atniehs/dntp/index.cfm>



Report on the Fiscal 2023
State Operating Budget (SB 290)
And the State Capital Budget (SB 291)
And Related Recommendations

By the Chairmen of the
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and
House Appropriations Committee

Joint Chairmen's Report
Annapolis, Maryland
2022 Session

OFFICE OF PLANT INDUSTRIES AND PEST MANAGEMENT

L00A14.04 Pesticide Regulation


Integrated Pest Management in Schools Report: The committees are concerned that insufficient information is known about the degree to which the integrated pest management law – Chapter 322 of 1999 (Public Schools – Integrated Pest Management) – is being enforced in school districts. Therefore, the committees request that the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), in consultation with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC), submit a report on whether school districts are complying with the integrated pest management law. The report is requested to include the status of school districts developing and implementing integrated pest management systems for school interiors and grounds and notifying parents on the pesticide notification list of planned pesticide applications. The report is requested to be submitted by December 1, 2022.

Joint Chairmen's Report – Operating Budget, April 2022



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L00A

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Integrated pest management in schools report	MDA MSDE CEHPAC	December 1, 2022



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2023

2022

Title: Integrated pest management in schools report / Maryland Department of Agriculture.

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Author: Maryland. Department of Agriculture.
Corporate Author: Maryland. Department of Agriculture.
Publication Information: Annapolis, Md. : Maryland Department of Agriculture, 2022.
Publication Dates: 2022
General Note:
 Title from re statement of cover letter.

 "December 1, 2022."
Local Note:
 Pursuant to 2022 Joint Chairmen's report, p. 87-88.
Subject Term: School buildings -- Maryland -- Integrated pest control.
 School buildings -- Maryland -- Maintenance and repair.
Digital: Unauthenticated pdf https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2022/2022_87-88.pdf

 LINKS to School IPM's [https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2022/2022_87-88\(IPM\)/2022_87-88\(links\).pdf](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2022/2022_87-88(IPM)/2022_87-88(links).pdf)
 Download All School IMP's [https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2022/2022_87-88\(IPM\).zip](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2022/2022_87-88(IPM).zip)

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Questions? Email: sarah.albert@mlis.state.md.us

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MARYLAND's

School Integrated Pest Management Laws

- COMAR 15.05.01 Pesticide Applicator's Law
- COMAR 15.05.02 School IPM and Notification
 - ✓ 1998 (structures)
 - ✓ 1999 (grounds)

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PLAN FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Pest Management Policy Statement

Structural pests, i.e. insects and rodents, carry diseases, contaminate food and food preparation areas and cause structural damage thus posing significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Landscape pests, i.e. insects, weeds and diseases, can pose significant problems to students, staff and users of school properties. Pesticides can also pose risks through unnecessary exposures to people, property, and the environment. Pest control in the school environment must protect the health and safety of the children and staff, minimize pest damage to structures and personal property, improve the quality of the educational environment by avoiding annoyance and disruption of work and learning caused by insects, rodents, and other pests. It is therefore the policy of the Montgomery County Public School District/ Board of Education to adopt Integrated Pest Management for control of pests in school buildings and on school grounds.

Roles and Responsibilities

The IPM program will require the assistance and cooperation of the administration, staff, and students. The Montgomery County Public School District/ Board of Education has established a Contact Person to serve as a liaison between the administration and pest control program in order to provide oversight, consistency in the pest control program, and ensure the provisions of the IPM system are fulfilled. The Contact Person will advise the administration, staff, parents and guardians and students as necessary of IPM program changes and new laws and regulations affecting the IPM system.

The Contact Person will discuss the IPM system and problem areas identified through the inspection and monitoring process. The Contact Person also serves as the liaison between the school administration and parents, guardians, students and staff to address questions and concerns regarding the IPM system and pest control practices. The Contact Person will make recommendations to correct problem areas.

Students and staff will comply with the provisions of the IPM system by ensuring that areas requiring maintenance or repair, sanitation problems, and pest problems or sightings are documented. Students and staff need to ensure good sanitation practices are followed.

Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (insects, animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with the use of the school site for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment. IPM relies on the coordinated use of pest environmental information and the best available pest management methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least

possible hazard to students, staff, property, and the environment. Long term control of pests is achieved by using information about biology and habits of the pest and its interaction with its surroundings. Proper installation of plants, appropriate watering regimes, and choosing plant species that are suited to specific sites and usage are some of the most effective measures for achieving long term pest control for school landscapes and grounds.

Pest Management

The Integrated Pest Management plan will be developed for the Montgomery County Public School District as required by the Maryland regulations pertaining to Integrated Pest Management and notification of Pesticide use in a Public School or on School grounds. Approved pest management plans will be developed for the site and will include any proposed pest management measures.

Pests will be managed to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazards or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property and prevent a recurrence of the problem.
- Prevent pests from spreading into the community, or areas beyond the site.
- Improve the quality of the educational environment for students, staff, and the public.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests, and identify conditions contributing to pest problems through the use of monitoring and thorough inspections conducted at regular intervals. Problem areas will be identified where alternative pest control technologies can be incorporated in order to eliminate routine pesticide applications. The necessity for pest control, if warranted, will be based on information obtained from inspections and monitoring. These actions will be based on action threshold levels that will be established based on the site and the pest. Within school grounds, these decisions are based on key pests, key plants, and key locations found within the landscape. Action thresholds for school grounds should be based on pest management objectives that have been established to satisfy the needs associated with the usage of specific sites. When pest control procedures are warranted in and around school buildings, one or more pest control methods including sanitation, structural repair, cultural practices, mechanical control, biological, other non-chemical methods and pesticides will be utilized.

IPM practitioners will depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. By applying IPM principals, unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage will be prevented by the most economical means while minimizing the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications.

The choice of using pesticides will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are unreasonable or have been exhausted, in order to minimize the use of pesticides. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for the use of pesticides, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of the Montgomery County Public School District / Board of Education to utilize IPM principals to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of pest control alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet vital pest management goals, the least hazardous pesticide will be selected. The application of such pesticides are subject to the Montgomery County Public School District/ Board of Education's policies and procedures and all applicable state, federal, and local regulations including the Maryland Pesticide Applicators Law and Regulations, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be provided to the school by the licensee, permittee, or certified applicator at the time of the pesticide application and will be maintained for 2 years. Records must be current and accurate. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests or other indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments. Pest control procedures, including cultural practices utilized on school grounds, will be tracked. Documentation of communications to students and staff regarding IPM and pesticide use will be maintained by the contact person.

Pesticide Purchase and Storage

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA- registered label directions and state regulations. Pesticides must be stored in an appropriate, secure site not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel.

Pesticide Applications

Pesticides may be used after it is determined that non-toxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted. The least hazardous pesticide will be selected and the method and time of application will be based on the goal to minimize the potential for exposure of students, and staff to the pesticide. Pesticide applications made on school property will be conducted by an individual certified as a pest control applicator or by a registered employee working under the supervision of a certified applicator. Applicators must be trained in the principals and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides. They must follow state and federal pesticide regulations and label precautions and comply with the Montgomery County Public Schools/ Board of Education's IPM policy and plan.

Education

Staff, students, pest managers, and the public will be educated about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives and will be informed of their role in meeting these objectives.

Program Evaluation

An annual review of the IPM system will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the program and that program objectives have been achieved. This will include the review of inspection reports, sanitation reports, and other records to establish current conditions, progress of the program against pest problems and conditions, effectiveness of action thresholds, and to identify problem areas in the IPM system that may need to be modified or changed. Evaluation is a critical part of a grounds management program and should include quantitative and qualitative assessments of pest population densities, densities of natural enemies, and the quality of the site after intervention takes place. Often, the evaluation of pest control efforts to school landscapes may be done during the next monitoring cycle, but in some situations special observations may be necessary to assess the success of the pest control tactic.

Notification

The Montgomery County Public School District/ Board of Education will notify the school staff, students, parents, and guardians prior to pesticide applications made in school buildings or on School grounds in accordance with Maryland regulations. Notices will be posted in designated areas at school and sent home to parents and guardians of elementary school students and parents and guardians of middle and high school students who wish to be informed in advance of pesticide applications and are on the pesticide notification list.

Harford

09
current as of 2/6/13

INTRODUCTION

The pesticides department is a very integrated and vital part of the Harford County Public Schools education process. Insuring that the occupants and outside users of our buildings and grounds have a safe and pest free environment is our ultimate goal. This comprehensive operations manual is provided to all schools and offices so that they understand the basic functions of our "in-house" process.

The Harford County Public Schools pesticides department approach to controlling unwanted pest works in conjunction with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles. This manual is designed to provide a reference on notification as well as our general approach of ridding your building or grounds of unwanted pest populations.

The pesticides department has developed an IPM program for all schools and offices. Each school or office is encouraged to have employees receive training through the pesticides department. This would include personnel from both day and evening shifts. Training in the safe and efficient application of "general use" pesticides has been approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. These registered individuals are the only employees allowed by state law to apply any type of pesticide on school property. The only exception is application by the registered personnel within the pesticides department. A more detailed description of their responsibilities are discussed in the "Laws and Regulations" section of this manual.

Holly Woodward,
Kim Tiddings, Sony

- **Notification Of A Pesticide Application In An Elementary, Middle and High School** - Notification must be provided to each parent or guardian of an elementary student and to each parent or guardian and staff member on the pesticide notification list 24 hours prior to a pesticide application. *and to each staff member*
- **Notification Of A Pesticide Application To School Grounds** - Notification must be provided to each parent or guardian of an elementary student and to each parent or guardian and staff member on the pesticide notification list 24 hours prior to a pesticide application on school grounds. *for middle/high schools*
- **Notification Of An Emergency Pesticide Application** - Notification must be provided to each parent or guardian of an elementary student and to each parent or guardian and staff member on the pesticide notification list within 24 hours of an emergency pesticide application. *and each staff member*
- **Notification Of A Space Spraying** - Notification (a separate 8 1/2 x 11 inch notice) must be provided at least one week prior to a space spraying to each parent or guardian and staff member on the pesticide notification list. *Must be provided to each student + staff member*
- **In-School Notification: Posted Sign or Notice - For Pesticide Application** - In-School Notification prior to a pesticide application *in a middle school or high school* must include a sign or notice posted at the room or area of the pesticide application and a central location accessible to parents, guardians, students, and staff. The notice or sign must remain posted for at least 48 hours after the pesticide application. *for 15.05.02.08*
- **In-School Notification: Posted Sign or Notice - For Use of Bait Station** - In-School Notification must be provided prior to the use of a bait station. The notice or sign must be posted on the door of the room or primary entrance to the area where the bait station is placed. The notice or sign must remain until the bait station is removed.
- **Outdoor Pesticides Application - Posting of Sign** - When a pesticide application is made on school grounds, a sign must be posted at the time of the application. The sign(s) are to be at the primary access to the school property. If a spot treatment pesticide application is made, a sign may be posted at the location where the pesticides application was made. The sign must remain posted for at least 48 hours following the application. *for 15.05.02.05, 15.05.02.08 C, 15.05.02.06 D, 15.05.02.11*

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for chemicals commonly used at school sites are enclosed. This information is available to any individual upon request.

For food handling locations such as kitchens, cafeterias, and home economics, a precautionary notice outlining clean-up procedures and re-igniting gas pilot lights, etc. is enclosed.

Evaluation

Annually the IPM program will be evaluated system-wide. This is in addition to the techniques described for on-going evaluation of current IPM practices at each location.

Veronika Carella

Health & Environmental Issues Advisor

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NGO websites

MD Children's Environmental Health Coalition <http://mdcehc.org/>

Healthy Schools Network <http://www.healthyschools.org/>

Maryland Pesticide Education Network <http://www.mdpestnet.org/>

Beyond Pesticides <https://beyondpesticides.org/>

School IPM 2015/2020 Project <https://www.northeastipm.org/working-groups/schools/membership/>

<https://www.northeastipm.org/schools/>

<http://schoolpestmanager.org/>

State Commissions websites

MD CEHPAC

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/26excom/html/08childe.html> and

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/oehfp/eh/pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>

MD Health in All Policies Working Group

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/26excom/defunct/html/20healinall.html>