



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 11, 2021

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
karen.salmon@maryland.gov

Dear Superintendent Salmon,

The Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) was established in 2000 pursuant to Chapter 585 of the Acts of 2000. CEHPAC advises the Governor and the General Assembly on environmental issues that may pose a threat to children. CEHPAC seeks to identify environmental hazards that may affect children's health and to recommend solutions to those hazards through interdisciplinary problem solving and coalition building.

At CEHPAC's April 20th, 2021 meeting, a motion was adopted requesting from MSDE an update to the 2015/2016 Evaluation of Maryland School Green Cleaning Law inquiry (attached), and, in addition, the following items:

- 1) Request MSDE to mandate school district-based transparent public and open data reporting of:
 - a. Protocols regarding existing cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting, including mandated policy, implementation plans, products used (including Product Label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS)), and staff training; and
 - b. Strategic measures taken to protect Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) by reducing aerosolization and exposure to respiratory irritants from chemicals used for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

- 2) An update on each school district's compliance with, and implementation of, federal and state laws related to Green Cleaning, including as defined and required by §5-112 of the Maryland Code, including any modifications to the required written policies for both procurement and use of green product cleaning supplies, based on a review of the COVID-19 pandemic information and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

- 3) Review limitations of the current laws regarding the protection of children in schools against potential harmful exposure to disinfectants which are registered pesticides, in light

of the fact that disinfectants are specifically excluded from the ambit of §5-112 of the Maryland Code.

CEHPAC notes that this initiative to gather and share information is relevant to upcoming decisions related to the use of anticipated funds being made available to address green cleaning and indoor air quality (IAQ) concerns in Maryland schools, as well as to providing guidance for existing operations.

We invite you or a designee to attend our next CEHPAC meeting scheduled for June 20, 2021 or another upcoming meeting so we can discuss these concerns. Meeting dates and details are available at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/EH/Pages/children-environmental-health.aspx>. If there are questions about this request, please let me know by email (cliff.mitchell@maryland.gov). Please note this request is being made on behalf of CEHPAC and is not a request by the Maryland Department of Health or any other State agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clifford Mitchell", is written over a faint, dotted-line signature strip.

Clifford Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH
Chair, Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

cc: Devon Dodson
Co-Chair, Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Fred Mason
Chief, School Facilities Branch, Maryland State Department of Education

Enclosed: Procurement of Green Cleaning Supplies, June 10, 2016, from Monica Kearns to Local School System Superintendents