

**PEST MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION**

The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (MECDH/GBSD) uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the control of insects, rodents, microorganisms, weeds and other pests in school buildings and on school grounds. IPM combines a variety of methods for managing pests including monitoring, improved sanitation and food storage practices, pest exclusion and removal, biological control and pesticides. The objective of the IPM program is to provide effective pest control while minimizing pesticide use.

Pesticides

Non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible. However, sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the least hazardous effective pesticide feasible.

Notification

When required by law, parents/guardians and school staff will be notified at least five days\* in advance of specific pesticide applications. When required by law, pesticide application notices will be posted in school and on school grounds.

Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law or regulations to pose little or no risk of exposure to students or staff.

A copy of MECDH/GBSD's IPM/Pest Management policy is available for review in the school office. The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the policy and Maine's "Pesticides in Schools" regulation (Chapter 27 of the Department of Agriculture Board of Pesticides Control "Standards for Pesticide Applications and Public Notification in Schools") by contacting William Ridgell at MECDH/GBSD, Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME 04105

**Adopted: April 15, 2004**

**Edited for school name: January 2014**

## **Suggested Notification Template – Version 2 (Universal Notice Option)**

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member,

I am writing about three subjects that can affect children’s health in school: pests, pesticides and your right to know.

### **Pest Control**

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our school focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and, as a last resort, pesticides. This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

### **Pesticide Use**

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and parents, guardians and staff have a right to know.

### **Your Right to Know**

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the School’s Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM coordinator, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

If you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_. For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit Maine School IPM website at [www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm)

Sincerely,