

## Pesticide Application Notification Guidelines

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### Parents' Right-to-Know

Pesticides are chemicals designed to kill or eliminate pests. Exposure to pesticides during childhood is linked to asthma, some developmental delays and cancer. Although pesticides can endanger the health of any child, children with asthma and other medically sensitive children are more vulnerable to the effects of pesticides.

Illinois law requires licensed childcare centers to use Integrated Pest Management and notify all parents, guardians and staff prior to indoor and outdoor applications of pesticides or herbicides. This law is designed to increase parents' awareness of their children's environment, enabling them to take steps to protect children's health if they chose.

### Notification Requirements

Follow these guidelines when notifying parents, guardians and staff of plans to apply pesticides:

- Notify parents and staff in writing before pesticide application. Notification may appear in newsletters, calendars, bulletins or other correspondence currently published by the center. A separate letter for notification is also acceptable.
- Send notification at least two business days before pesticide application, and no more than thirty days before pesticide application.
- Include the date of pesticide application and the name and contact info for center personnel responsible for facility management. Consider including the name of the pesticide used and the target pest.
- EITHER notify all parents OR maintain a registry of parents who responded to a written invitation to be included on the registry. Parents must be made aware of the registry every year.

### Exempt Materials

Applications of the following pesticides are not subject to the notification requirement:

- Antimicrobial agents (e.g. disinfectants, sanitizers, or deodorizers)
- Insecticide baits
- Rodenticide baits

### Emergency Pesticide Applications

Prior written notice is not required if there is an imminent threat to health or property. However, written notification must be provided as soon as possible and must include an explanation of the circumstances that gave rise to the emergency.

### Regularly Scheduled Applications

According to state law, regularly scheduled pesticide applications are not part of an IPM program. Therefore, creating a calendar of pre-scheduled pesticide applications to notify parents and staff is not acceptable for notification.

### Sample Notification

A sample notification announcement and invitation for the registry are included on the back of this document.

### Sample Pesticide Application Notice

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Childcare Center Name) practices Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an approach to pest control that reduces pest populations while minimizing pesticide applications. After trying non-chemical and least-toxic means to control a current pest problem, a pesticide has been deemed necessary. On \_\_\_\_\_ (date), an application of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of pesticide) will be applied at \_\_\_\_\_ (location) for the control of \_\_\_\_\_ (pest). The term "pesticide" includes insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and fungicides.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ (name of responsible employee) at \_\_\_\_\_ (phone).

### Sample Pesticide Application Registry Notice

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Childcare Center Name) practices Integrated Pest Management, a program that combines preventive techniques, non-chemical pest control methods, and the appropriate use of pesticides with a preference for products that are the least harmful to human health and the environment. Applications of pesticides are made only when deemed necessary to control a pest problem and after trying other means to control the problem. The term "pesticide" includes insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and fungicides.

We are establishing a registry of people who wish to be notified prior to pesticide applications. To be included in this registry, please complete the attached form and submit it to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of responsible employee).

Please include me in the notification registry. I understand that if there is an immediate threat to health or property that requires treatment before notification can be sent out, I will receive notification as soon as practicable.

Parent/Guardian/Staff Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_