



Dear Principal/Custodian Engineer/Building Manager:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) share the objective of increasing environmental awareness of students, faculty, staff and parents regarding the benefits and the potential dangers of pesticides used for pest control in school settings. The purpose of this letter is to promote alternative methods of pest control and emphasize how all three agencies strongly advocate an Integrated Pest Management approach in all New York City Schools.

IPM is a holistic approach to solving pest problems. It begins with learning how to prevent pests from becoming established. A school IPM program uses common sense strategies to reduce sources of food, water, and shelter for pests in your school buildings and grounds. Buildings must be kept clean, uncluttered and in good repair to reduce pests, maintain structural integrity and conserve costs and energy.

The NYC Department of Education currently uses IPM to reduce pesticide risk and potential exposure to children. However, for an IPM program to be successful, all people including administrators, teachers, support and maintenance staff and students must be made aware of the school's policies on pest control and their respective roles in the overall pest management plan.

Since children spend so much of their day at school, IPM provides an opportunity to create a safer learning environment and reduce children's exposure to pesticides while effectively preventing and managing pests. EPA Region 2, NYSDEC and NYC D9E encourage school officials to adopt IPM practices to reduce children's exposure to pesticides. The NYC Department of Education Pest Management team agrees with this principle, and currently uses IPM in every city school.

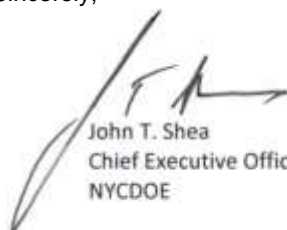
Following are some helpful websites with information on school IPM:

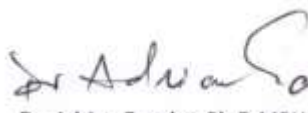
NYCDOE: <http://www.opt-osfns.org/dsf/reference/safety/pest.aspx>  
NYSDEC: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/42925.html>  
EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/pestwise/ipminschoools/implementation.html>  
Cornell: <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/>

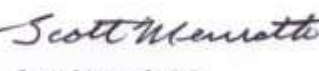
If you would like to take advantage of an additional resource, EPA Region 2 offers specific training and presentations about school IPM and general pesticide safety. For further information and/or to request presentations, please contact Mrs. Lynne Gregory, the EPA Region 2 Pesticides Outreach Coordinator at (732) 321-4391 or at [Gregory.Lynne@epa.gov](mailto:Gregory.Lynne@epa.gov).

We trust that you will find the attached materials helpful in answering any questions that you, staff, or parents may have about your school's IPM program. Thank you for your continued support of this effort.

Sincerely,

  
John T. Shea  
Chief Executive Officer  
NYCDOE

  
Dr. Adrian Enache, Ph.D.MPH  
Manager, Pesticides Program  
U.S. EPA – Region 2

  
Scott Menrath, P.E.  
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NYSDEC