

For my child's health, please do not spray pesticides in school.



Did you know...

- ⇒ Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism due to chronic illness. ⁱ
- ⇒ 1 in 6 children in the U.S. has a developmental disability, ranging from a learning disability to a behavioral or emotional disorder. ⁱⁱ
- ⇒ Research shows that pesticides are both a trigger for asthma attacks and a root cause of asthma. ⁱⁱⁱ
- ⇒ Government testing found residues of pesticides commonly used in schools at highest concentrations in children ages 6-11. ^{iv}

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2005. Asthma's Impact on Children and Adolescents. <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/children.htm>.

ⁱⁱ Boyle, C. A., et al. 1994. "Prevalence and health impact of developmental disabilities in US children." *Pediatrics* 93: 399-403.

ⁱⁱⁱ Salam, MT, YF Li, B Langholz, and FD Gilliland. May 2004. Early-life environmental risk factors for asthma: findings from the children's health study. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 112(6): 760-765.

^{iv} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2003 Jan. Second National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals.

Dear school health staff:

I am looking forward to a safe and healthy school year and appreciate your efforts in this regard. With safety in mind, please ensure that my child is not exposed to toxic pesticides. Pesticide use is increasingly being recognized by the medical community as a health threat to children. They can cause neurological problems, learning disabilities, asthma, cancer and other chemical-induced illnesses. Pesticides can exacerbate existing health problems and initiate new ones.

In fact, a new study recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association finds that children and school staff nationwide are being poisoned by pesticide use at schools, with more incidents going undiagnosed and unrecorded. It has been documented that pesticides are not adequately regulated by EPA, especially concerning children's exposure. Please let me know how my child is being protected from this toxic chemical hazard.

To ensure the safety of all children and school staff, I suggest that the school adopt non-toxic integrated pest management strategies. This will ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. I would be happy to put you in touch with those who are successfully managing the school environment without toxic chemicals.

Thank you and sincerely,

Making the Transition to a Healthy, Pest-Free Learning Environment

⇒ Integrated pest management (IPM) is a program of prevention, education, monitoring and control that eliminate toxic pesticide use. One school IPM expert says, "You don't have to kill pests when you can prevent pests."

⇒ Information to help your school go pesticide-free is available online at www.toxicfreeschools.org.

⇒ For more information on starting an IPM program, contact Beyond Pesticides at www.beyondpesticides.org or 202-543-5450, or: