



Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter

NPIC Provides Disinfectant Information in Spanish

Karen Vail

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) released disinfectant safety information in English and Spanish. If your custodial or other staff are Spanish speaking, consider sharing the following:

Fact Sheet in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Infographic [Using Disinfectants and Wipes against COVID-19](#)

[Webinar](#)

Q&A with sharable images in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Recently translated materials:

Antimicrobials Topic Fact Sheet ([English](#) & [Spanish](#))

Video: Reducing Disinfectant Exposures in the Workplace ([English](#) & [Spanish](#))

Webpage: Understanding and Selecting Antimicrobial Pesticides ([English](#) & [Spanish](#))

Webpage: Selecting the Right Antimicrobial Product ([English](#) & [Spanish](#))

Webpage: Antimicrobials for Pathogens in Blood and Body Fluids ([English](#) & [Spanish](#))

Reminder: We're the Volunteer State and We're Still Looking for Volunteers!

Do you have any significant pest problems that need to be addressed but you've been unable to find the time or resources to do so? Or do you have pest conducive conditions that need to be repaired or removed to prevent a pest outbreak? If so, you should VOLUNTEER to participate in a demonstration project. See our [last issue](#) or contact me at kvail@utk.edu for more details

Special Points of Interest

Because unexpected school closings can continue to occur throughout the next year, it would be wise to adopt our suggestions as everyday practices. We don't want to add a pest outbreak to an already stressful situation!

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Prevent Pest Conducive Conditions when Preparing Classrooms for Winter Break and Shifts to Virtual Learning

Karen Vail and Janet Hurley

It's been a difficult year and most of you aren't thinking about pests with more than two legs. Teachers, parents, students, custodians and others in schools are trying to assuage concerns about and prevent COVID-19, prevent misapplications of disinfectants and sanitizers, ensure everyone is wearing masks and still meet their daily goals. In addition to all of this, classrooms can shift from face-to-face to virtual environments overnight and without any warning. When schools close without warning, pest conducive conditions are left behind. So unlike most years, our biggest concern this December is not the remains of the holiday food left in the classroom garbage over break, but the everyday food items left behind. When schools close unexpectedly and for considerable time, someone will need to inspect the premises to ensure pests don't proliferate due to conducive conditions. For example, custodians should empty any garbage cans containing food. Because unexpected closings can continue to occur throughout the next year, it would be wise to adopt the following as common practices. We don't want to add a pest outbreak to an already stressful situation!

Solid foods

- Ensure an area is cleaned after eating.
- Ensure garbage cans are lined with plastic bags so food debris isn't left in the can when it is emptied.
- Don't let cans or bins overflow.
- Empty garbage cans and recycle bins often. These should all be emptied before the start of break or other times campuses close.
- Always keep snacks and other food items, whether for kids or teachers, in pest-proof containers such as sealed plastic, glass or metal containers. Yes, that means that package of crackers and emergency candy you keep in your top desk drawer.
- Look under furniture for food crumbs and remove them. We find that food eating surfaces are often cleaned, but food debris under objects is often ignored.
- Food should be sent home and not left in the classroom overnight, over break or over extended closings.
- Send the kids home with art and crafts projects made of food. We don't want pests nibbling on these while you're gone. Food-based art projects should have limited duration in the classroom regardless of the time of year.



Remains of an American cockroach found under the recycle bin.

Water and other liquids

- Use water as the preferred beverage in the classroom. It's better for the kids and doesn't leave a sticky, sugary mess when spilled for the pests to enjoy.
- Any spills should be wiped up immediately. Report spills of sugary substances on carpets to ensure they are cleaned quickly.
- Report leaking faucets and pipes ASAP. Cockroaches can only live a few days without water, but weeks without solid food.
- Ensure water is present in the p-trap of any sink and cover or plug drains to ensure American cockroaches don't make a visit to your classroom through the pipes. We found this action to be especially important in high schools that have been converted to elementary or middle schools. Often, the locker room showers and some of the toilets are no longer required and p-traps dry up allowing American cockroaches easy access. Also, sinks in science classrooms may have the same issue if used infrequently.



An unused toilet lacking water allows American cockroaches easy access to the school.

Clutter (i.e, pest shelter)

- Cardboard boxes used to bring in supplies should be sent home, recycled or returned to the owner.
- Transition from cardboard as a long-term storage container to plastic totes or similar items. German cockroaches love to hide in **corrugated cardboard** and are often transported into buildings this way. German cockroaches so enjoy corrugated cardboard that we use it for their harborage when we rear them in the laboratory. Crickets will also munch on it, mice build nests out of it and many pests may use it as a hiding place.
- Arts, crafts, and miscellaneous **supplies tend to accumulate in the classroom**. Ask yourself if you have used stored items in the last year. If not, is there someone else who could use it more?
- Please reduce clutter in the classroom. Not only does clutter provide a place for pests to hide, it is very difficult to clean or inspect in, under and around it. Ask yourself why it is here and if you can do without it.

Follow these steps to help keep your classroom pest free. Not only do pests disrupt the learning environment, they are also a source of allergens and asthma triggers.

Modified from:

Hurley, J. 2013. As we all prepare to enjoy a few days off with our family and friends, please remember these few short tips to help keep our classrooms, cafeterias, and offices free of places for pests to hide over the holiday break.

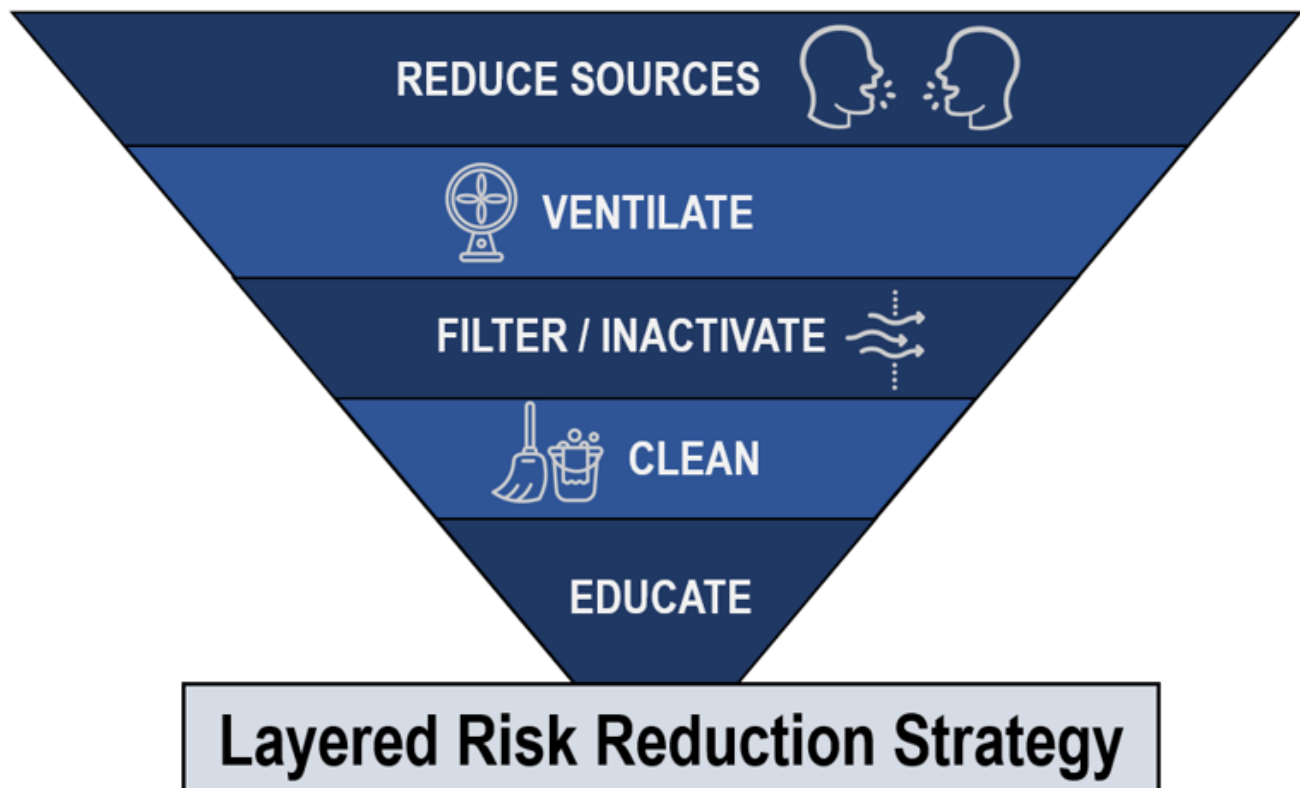
Vail, K. and J. Hurley. 2014. Classroom Holiday Party Invitations Shouldn't Include Pests! Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter 8(3):1-2.

EPA Schools IAQ Connector

Recording Now Available!**Indoor Air Quality in K-12 Schools: Addressing the Concept of Layered Risk Amidst COVID-19**

In case you missed the November 19, 2020 webinar, [*Indoor Air Quality in K-12 Schools: Addressing the Concept of Layered Risk Amidst COVID-19*](#), find the recording online!

Join experts from the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ) and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) to learn how “layered risk reduction” strategies for addressing current issues in school indoor air quality can help reduce health risks – including virus transmission – and explore the scientific basis for IAQ guidance issued by government and public health organizations.



Be sure to also visit our **NEW!** [Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools Webinar Series webpage](#) to find webinars about best ventilation and cleaning practices, intended to help school staff in responding to concerns in their facilities. Check this page regularly to find recent webinars from our IAQ management champions, such as:

July 30, 2020: *Let's Clear the Air: Using Ventilation Practices to Promote Healthy IAQ in School*

August 6, 2020: *Cleaning for Health: Proactive Plans to Effectively Clean and Promote Healthy IAQ in Schools*

August 13, 2020: *What Schools Need to Know: Practices and Principles for Healthy IAQ and Reducing the Spread of Viruses*

October 22, 2020: *Meeting Current School Health Challenges and Beyond: New Tools to Assess and Address IAQ Healthy and Safety*

November 19, 2020: *Indoor Air Quality in K-12 Schools: Addressing the Concept of Layered Risk Amidst COVID-19*

UT School IPM Website to get Facelift

By March 2021 we hope to have updated our Child-Serving Facility IPM Website and its linked resources so it is more accessible to browser searches. We will switch from DreamWeaver to WordPress and eventually hope to change the way we deliver our newsletter to you. If you've bookmarked schoolipm.utk.edu you will be fine, but if you included subdirectories, you will not be redirected. We'll keep you informed as we make more progress to deliver you more easily accessible products. This is just a first mention to inform you of the changes. More will be explained in our next issue. If you feel we are missing important information that you would like included in the new site, please let us know.



Say goodbye to our old Child-Serving Facility Website. We hope to have the new WordPress version launched by March!

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For more information about IPM in Tennessee schools and other facilities, or to view past issues of *Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities*, please visit <http://schoolipm.utk.edu>

NATIONAL IPM INFORMATION

eXtension's Pests in the Home
<https://pestsinthehome.extension.org/>

National School IPM
schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/

IPM in Schools Texas
<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/>

IPM Institute of North America
www.ipminstitute.org/

School IPM PMSP—all schools IPM by 2020 [https://
 ipminstitute.org/projects/school-ipm-2020/](https://ipminstitute.org/projects/school-ipm-2020/)

EPA schools
<http://www2.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools>

For further information about the IPM program at your school or in your county, contact your county Extension Agent or the school IPM Coordinator. For county agent contact information, please visit <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/office-locations-departments-centers/>

Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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