



Regional School Unit 1

Serving the Communities of Arrowsic – Bath – Phippsburg – Woolwich

*Patrick M. Manuel, Superintendent
Debra J. Clark, Business Manager*

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Think – Care – Act

Integrated Pest Management Annual Notice

August 21, 2023

Dear staff, students & parents,

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

Pest Control

Because pesticides pose risks, the school department uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our schools 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 the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the 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). All pesticide applications are handled by a licensed pesticide agency.

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 prior to the planned pesticide application. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in the 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 a record 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 Maine Board of Pesticides Control Regulations CMR 01-026 Chapter 27 by contacting our IPM coordinator, Dennis Ouellette, at Regional School Unit 1, 34 Wing Farm Parkway, Bath, ME 04530.

If you have questions, please contact my office at 443-6601 ext. 108. For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticide Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ouellette
Facilities Director
Regional School Unit 1

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<http://www.rsu1.org>