March 26, 2020
COVID-19 Adjustments Update

Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) will observe and implement the following COVID-19 adjustments until further notice. You are encouraged to visit the OISC web site: https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/index.html for the most current updates to this evolving issue. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging period.

1. All OISC staff have been instructed to operate from home, maintaining as many functions and services as possible, while complying with Governor Holcomb’s Executive Order 20-08.

2. OISC offices and labs will be closed to public walk-in traffic through April 6, 2020, and may be extended upon further notice.

3. OISC will continue to provide telephone and email response services to the public. Contact via email is encouraged: https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/contact_oisc.html.

4. OISC is not processing any mail during the mandated work-from-home order. At this time, the earliest OISC will begin processing mail again is April 6, 2020. Mail will be held and processed in the order it is received. Mail received prior to the shutdown will continue to be processed, routinely.

5. All pesticide and fertilizer applicator certification training and examining sessions scheduled at Purdue University through May 17, 2020 have been cancelled.

6. All remote applicator testing at Ivy Tech Examination Centers has been closed until further notice.

7. Group training and examining sessions at Purdue, scheduled to occur after May 17, 2020, may also be subject to cancellation. However, for now these sessions are being evaluated on a week-to-week basis.

8. Pesticide applicators using or supervising the use of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) during 2020 must be certified and licensed, just as has been required previously. U.S. EPA has not suspended or modified this legal requirement, therefore, OISC cannot suspend it either.

9. OISC will suspend the Registered Technician requirements for pesticide and fertilizer applicators operating under the supervision of a certified applicator when using only General Use Pesticides (GUPs). The requirement to pass the Core exam and apply for a Registered Technician credential will be suspended through December 31, 2020, unless another date is determined to be necessary by legal counsel.

10. All supervision requirements for noncertified applicators, other than passing the Core exam and applying for a registered technicians credential will remain in place.

11. OISC will implement immediately the recent law change that exempts persons applying General Use Pesticide disinfectant pesticides from the requirement to obtain a pesticide business license.
12. Nothing in this temporary regulatory guidance shall exempt any applicator from complying with all other existing requirements, such as using a pesticide in a manner consistent with the product label directions.

13. OISC will continue to conduct for-cause complaint investigations, implementing the social distancing directives in the Governor’s Executive Order.

14. OISC will continue to perform routine compliance inspections only if the inspection can be conducted remotely or with no personal contact with clients or the public.

OISC is not the authority responsible for compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order regarding limitation of business operations to only “essential businesses”. Guidance identifying “essential businesses” is available at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA-Guidance-on-Essential-Critical-Infrastructure-Workers-1-20-508c.pdf.

Licensed pesticide and fertilizer application businesses are not referenced specifically or by name in this guidance. However, it has been confirmed for OISC that the following applicator categories are clearly included:

- Private Applicators (farmers);
- Category 1 (agricultural pest management);
- Category 4 (seed treatment);
- Category 6 (right-of-way vegetation management);
- Category 7A (residential & food service pest management);
- Category 7B (termite control);
- Category 7D (fumigation);
- Category 8 (community-wide mosquito control);
- Category 11 (aerial application); and
- Category 14 (agricultural fertilizer application)

We have also been recently informed that categories 3A and 3B have been confirmed as essential.