Office of
INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER

Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Pesticide and Seed

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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. 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 20-09.

2. OISC offices and labs will be closed to public walk-in traffic until 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 will process mail on an intermittent basis during the mandated work-from-home order. Mail will be processed in the order it is received. At this time, alternative methods for payment are not available.

5. OISC will continue to conduct for-cause complaint investigations, implementing the social distancing directives in the Governor's Executive Order and utilizing personal protective equipment such as face masks and gloves.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. All pesticide and fertilizer applicator certification training and examining sessions scheduled at Purdue University through June 1, 2020 have been cancelled.

9. All remote applicator testing at Ivy Tech Examination Centers have been closed until further notice.

10. 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.

11. OISC will exercise an enforcement discretion policy when addressing any pesticide noncompliance that may occur as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary enforcement discretion policy shall cover the period starting on March 13, 2020 and shall extend to seven days after the date of notification of the policy termination date to be posted at https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/index.html. This policy does NOT apply to violations resulting from the sale or distribution of a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) to a noncertified individual or to use or supervision of the use of a RUP by a noncertified individual. In addition, this policy does NOT apply to use of a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with the product label.

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

13. **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.