



Office of  
**INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER**

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

Robert D. Waltz, Ph.D.  
State Chemist &  
Seed Commissioner

Purdue University • 175 South University Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063  
Telephone (765) 494-1492 • Facsimile (765) 494-4331  
[www.oisc.purdue.edu](http://www.oisc.purdue.edu)

**August 17, 2020**  
**COVID-19 Adjustments Update**

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and the actions you have taken over the past months to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 throughout Indiana and beyond. As we continue to implement and restore regulatory services and functions throughout this period of continual adjustment, the health, safety, and well-being of our community continues to be at the forefront of our decisions and operating policies. This means that regulatory clients, the public, and Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) staff should all expect OISC programs and activities to function differently than before COVID-19. This is likely to continue until a vaccine is widely available.

OISC will observe and implement the following 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 again for your cooperation and patience during this challenging period.

1. Many OISC staff have been instructed to operate largely from home, maintaining as many functions and services as possible, while complying with directives from both Governor Eric Holcomb and Purdue University. Most OISC services and functions have been restored, but some procedures and completion timelines may still be impacted.
2. OISC offices and labs will be closed to public walk-in traffic until further notice. Visitors to OISC facilities will be by specific appointment only. Visitors will be monitored for COVID symptomology before entering the facility and must wear face masks and practice social distancing while in the building.
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](https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/contact_oisc.html).
4. OISC will process mail on a weekly but 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 such as e-commerce and credit cards are not available. OISC is currently experiencing an approximate three-week delay in processing both product and applicator license applications.
5. Our agency is currently experiencing a significant increase in pesticide product application submissions. Most of the increase is from products claiming to be effective in mitigating the COVID virus. As a result, OISC anticipates the following application review and processing timelines for new or revised pesticide products:
  - Section 3 (EPA Registered) Pesticides: 2-4 months
  - 25(b) Minimum Risk Pesticides: 8-10 months
  - Pesticide Devices: 8-10 months
6. OISC will continue to conduct for-cause complaint investigations, implementing both social distancing and face masking. OISC clients are encouraged to practice these safety procedures as well,

if personal contact with OISC staff is required. OISC staff have been instructed to extract themselves from the personal interaction if clients refuse to comply with these safety procedures.

7. OISC will continue to perform routine compliance inspections only if the inspection can be conducted remotely or with minimal personal contact with clients or the public.
8. 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.
9. All remote applicator testing services at Ivy Tech Examination Centers are currently re-opened. In addition, a few new testing centers have been added, as well. Check for availability at <http://indiana.metrosignup.com>.
10. Purdue Pesticide Programs (PPP) is currently hosting live applicator training programs, following Purdue University COVID-19 guidelines. In addition, PPP is exploring online training options for initial certification training. For information about training programs call Cindy Myers at 765-494-4566.
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>. Generally speaking, this policy of enforcement discretion will specifically NOT apply to the following types of violations: 1) sale or distribution of a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) to a noncertified individual; 2) use or supervision of the use of a RUP by a noncertified individual; 3) use of a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with the product label; or 4) false or misleading labeling or advertising efficacy claims made for pesticide products targeting the Coronavirus.
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 technician credential will remain in place.
13. At this time OISC does not believe an extension for CCH's is needed. Although a few private applicator classes were cancelled during the governor's stay at home order, there continues to be numerous opportunities to collect CCH's either at in-person or online training. Check for available CCH classes at <https://www.inplants.oisc.purdue.edu/USAPlantsIN/Index.aspx>.