

Back to School with IPM Webinar Q&A

August 17, 2016

Questions and Answers

The questions below were posed by the webinar participants. The responses may have been refined by the presenters following the webinar for clarification or to include additional resources.

General Questions

1. **Will the presentation be available for download? Where?**

A [PDF of the presentation](#) will be made available on our website along with answers to attendees' questions and statistics about the webinar. A closed-captioned version of the recording of the webinar will soon be available on our [School IPM website](#).

Questions Posed to Presenters

1. **As an Administrator, was it hard to get buy-in from the front line staff, custodians, kitchen helpers, etc., when you implemented IPM?**

(Dr. Bailey) No, it wasn't hard. We actually had an IPM policy in place for several years. Since I've been with the school division going on 5 years now it's been a common practice. It hasn't been difficult because I think the bottom line is we are all trying to the best we can to maintain our school buildings properly. You will have difficult teachers and/or parents, but that's far and few in between. But, we always handle them professionally. The communication piece is the essential part of it. We make everything available, our policy available and how we are going to handle things, and it usually works pretty well.

2. **Can you suggest strategies to convince teachers to get rid of their clutter in the classroom?**

(Mervin Brewer) Well, yes. As matter of fact there's a couple of strategies we use that are effective. One is we like to take a black light, portable black light, and do a demonstration for them with things like these couches; show them where under the ultra-violet light the mice are doing their business (urinating and defecating). This tends to get their attention pretty quick. Secondly, we have a presentation board that shows the same type of demonstration. It's very graphic in nature because it shows where the mice are doing their business and that gets people's attention. When teachers and other staff members see that their coffee cups has little yellow spots in it they tend to think, ok, maybe I need to do something to remediate this issue. So, we found this works very, very good. But there are still people that just will not get the message with the clutter. Sometimes, it's to the point where you have to go to the administration in the building and let them know that this is a real problem and a health issue. And again, we've not had any issue that's not been able to deal with in those type of scenarios.

3. **Can you suggest good online resources for the IPM coordinator?**

(Sherry Glick) EPA has excellent guidance which can be found on our School IPM website. There are a number of documents that will assist the IPM coordinator in understanding their role better. One document that we talked about earlier is the EPA IPM Model Policy and Plan. The model policy is excellent. Secondly, there's a training course that EPA funded through a cooperative agreement

with the University of Arizona and it's called [Stop School Pests](#). Lastly, there's some good guidance documents from the school [IPM 2020 workgroup](#) for the IPM coordinator.

4. Have you found in tight budget times, that IPM saves money?

(Dr. Bailey) Yes, I believe it does. Before coming to Chesapeake Public Schools I worked in another school division in Virginia that contracted services out and still used IPM services. But I found that having my own internal pest technicians and our methods that we use are, firstly, very effective and cost efficient. Folks on the outside that have external contactors, they're running a business that is made to make money. When you have your own internal controls and staff they are under the philosophy of wanting to provide the customer service generally to the schools and the students. So they may not add on some of the things that the external contractors may add on that they found or want to do. The internal pest technicians are going to get in there and they are going to get to the root of the problem and solve it. So yes, not only is IPM saving costs for our services for technicians but also on some of the materials and supplies we use with baits, traps and other related resources.

5. As an administrator, what are the best benefits you have noticed since implementing IPM?

(Dr. Bailey) I think environmentally, in the schools, is one of the main things. You are really promoting and providing a truly healthy environment. With all the medical conditions of kids, can you imagine if we just opened things up for teachers and everybody else in the in the building to spray their own chemicals to elicit things that we know could possibly trigger asthma and other health efforts for children? Just that alone is a major, major improvement compare to not having an IPM plan. So the environmental health and safety of the students, staff and schools is instrumental. The second part of that is definitely the cost savings. The third part is having consistent communication and having that plan where all you stakeholders know and are on the same page. Not saying everything will be perfect all the time in all your schools; but you have a plan that is readily available that is going to implement safe health practices in your school buildings.

6. Does anyone know of any non-pesticide, low impact ways to rid the property and concrete of weeds and invasive plants versus using chemicals and sending notices home?

(Mervin Brewer) It depends on where the weeds are located. Quite often the best way that we handle it is through mechanical control, weed whips, pulling weeds, etc. As far as a green way to do it, that is really the "greenest" option. I realize it's very difficult in a lot of places because of the fact that school districts don't have the budget to hire enough people to do those things or have the equipment to do those things, but is something probably, the best way to deal with weeds.

7. What are some of the best resources or clearinghouse for schools that don not have IPM plans and are interested in getting started?

(Dr. Bailey) The EPA is a great source. I was fortunate enough several weeks ago to go to Washington with stakeholders from across the country just to talk about an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan across the country for schools. So there are a lot of resources. I think Sherry Glick, EPA's Center of Expertise for School IPM, is a very good resource. I truly believe Texas is really ahead of the game especially compared to use here in Virginia, even though we do a very good job in my school division. Your localities where you are within your EPA will have information in regards

to IPM. But I think EPA is a very, very good resource and that's what I've been going through to get information since I have been a director in Virginia.

Resources

1. Where is a good source of materials to help educate our teachers, students and staff understand IPM?

- [EPA's "Managing Pest in Schools" website](#)
- [Model Pesticide Safety and IPM Guidance Policy for School Districts](#)
- [National Association of School Nurses' Back-to-School Checklist](#)
- [eXtension "School Integrated Pest Management" website](#)
- [IPM Institute of North America's "School IPM 2020" website](#)

Upcoming School IPM Webinars

We welcome your participation in our [upcoming webinars](#) and ask you to encourage your peers to attend. These presentations are geared specifically to school and school district facility managers, buildings and grounds managers and staff, childcare facility managers, and school IPM practitioners. School nurses, school administrators, health officials, and pest management professionals are welcome to attend.