

COVID-19 and disinfectants



Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee
October 28-29, 2020



Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance

- As part of the federal government's efforts to minimize risks to the public, in January 2020 EPA activated—**for the first time ever**—its Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides.
- Under this guidance, EPA allows manufacturers to provide the agency with data, even in advance of an outbreak, to show their products are effective against harder-to-kill viruses.
- Once approved, these companies can make non-labeling marketing claims for use against the novel coronavirus.



List N

- In early March, EPA released its initial List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. This list **began with 85 products** and continues to be updated on a weekly basis. It is searchable and sortable, comes with helpful tips on how to use disinfectants properly, and features frequently asked questions to ensure correct product usage.
- **EPA's List N site has been viewed over 20 million times**



List N

- To date, **this list includes over 500** wipes, sprays and products that are effective against SARS-CoV-2 because they meet the following criteria:
 - demonstrated efficacy against the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19);
 - demonstrated efficacy against a pathogen that is harder to kill than SARS-CoV-2; or
 - demonstrated efficacy against a different human coronavirus similar to SARS-CoV-2.



Supply Chain Flexibilities

- To address several reported supply chain issues, in Spring 2020, EPA created flexibilities for manufacturers by temporarily allowing registrants to notify EPA of certain formulation and manufacturing facility changes and immediately release the product for sale without waiting for EPA approval.
- For certain active and inert ingredients, companies are able to switch suppliers without waiting for EPA approval.

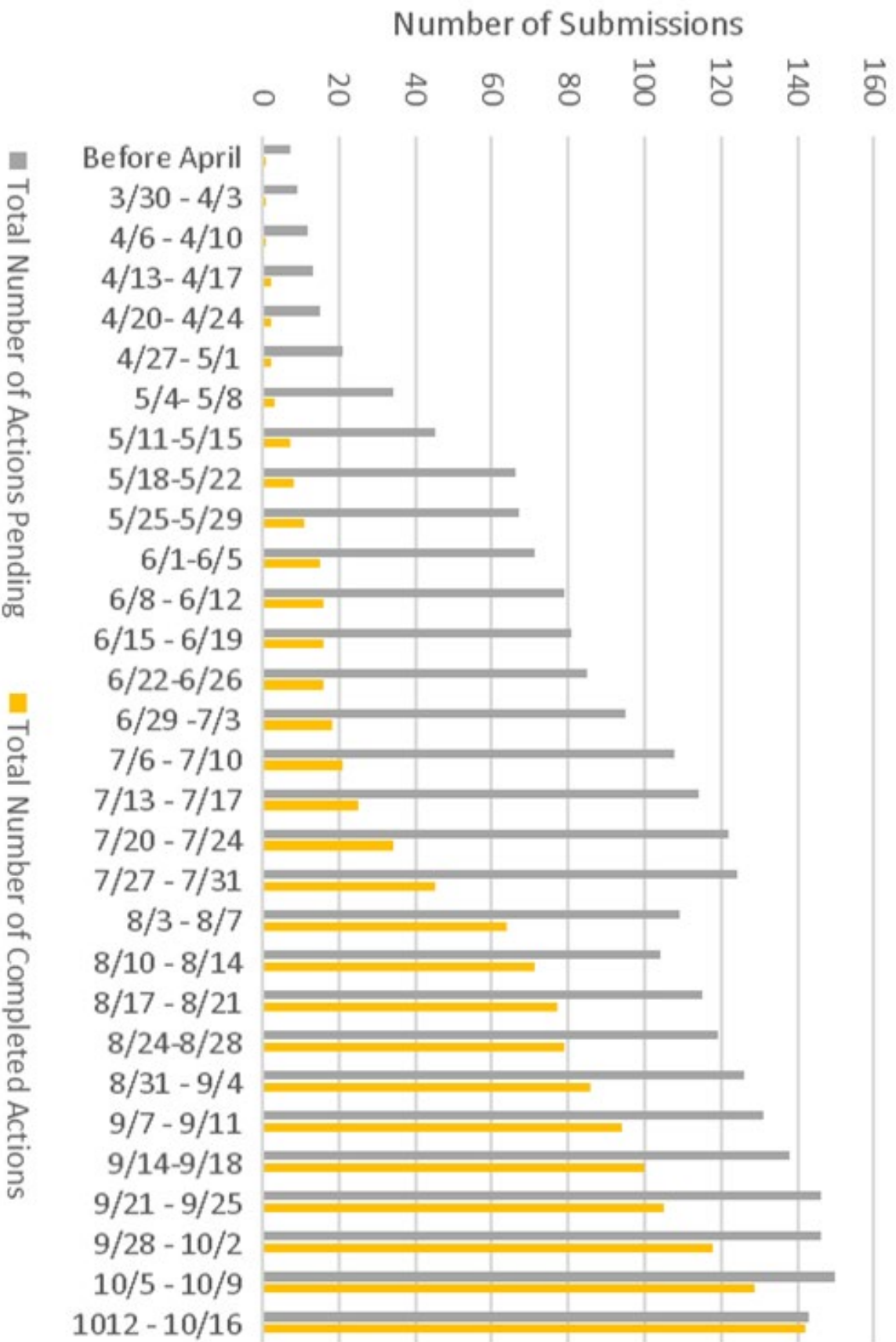


Expedited Registration

- EPA has also expedited several review processes for new and existing products intended for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- In March, EPA announced that it would expedite the review process for products that were eligible for emerging viral pathogen claims without requiring the review of new data. This allowed EPA to quickly add qualified products to List N.
- In May, EPA expanded its expedited review program to include new products as well as amendments to existing product labels that require the review of new efficacy data.



Expedited PRIA Submissions Totals





New Data Development

- EPA recently announced new, innovative data developments to combat the novel coronavirus.
- In July, EPA began to expedite applications to add directions for use with electrostatic sprayers to products intended to kill SARS-CoV-2. Electrostatic spraying has drawn increased interest because of the need to disinfect large indoor spaces or areas with many surfaces.
- In August, EPA issued an emergency exemption to the state of Texas to allow American Airlines and Total Orthopedics Sports & Spine to use SurfaceWise2, which is manufactured by Allied BioScience, as a surface coating that inactivates viruses and bacteria within two hours of application and continues to work against them for up to seven days.



New Data Development Cont.

- In October, EPA provided guidance and methods and announced expedited review for products making residual (long-lasting) efficacy claims.
- We are working aggressively with many companies of novel disinfectant technologies to work through our approval process.
- These actions have provided the regulated community with guidance to generate data needed to register products that are effective against SARS –CoV-2 and increase the number of available products to quickly respond to the needs created by the COVID-19 public health emergency.



Guidance on Respiratory Protection & Respiratory Fit Testing for Agricultural Pesticide Handlers

- EPA has issued temporary guidance that outlines approaches to address the unavailability of required respiratory protection and respiratory fit testing for agricultural pesticide handlers.
- The guidance aligns with recent OSHA memoranda on respirators while addressing EPA's responsibilities under FIFRA and the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS).



Guidance for Agricultural and Handler Employers on WPS Pesticide Safety Training

- The Agency is aware that COVID-19 may make it difficult for agricultural and handler employers to provide WPS pesticide safety training, as required by the WPS. In response, EPA issued guidance to inform agricultural and handler employers of flexibilities available under the WPS to allow continued protection for employees and agricultural production



Guidance for State, Tribal, and Federal Certifying Authorities on Pesticide Applicator Certification Programs

- EPA is also aware that state, tribal, and federal certifying authorities may need to make temporary changes to their existing pesticide applicator certification programs in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As a result, EPA issued temporary guidance to provide flexibilities that meet both the needs of applicators and the requirements of the Certification of Pesticide Applicators rule (40 CFR Part 171).



COORDINATION

- EPA has coordinated responses via the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) to over 120 COVID-related inquiries from Congressional staff since March 2020.
- EPA has coordinated over 80 pre-submission meetings with companies intending to submit data to add products and/or claims to EPA's Disinfectants List N.
- EPA has worked closely with the Household Consumer Product Association (HCPA) and the American Chemistry Council's Center for Biocide Chemistries to identify and address issues related to disinfectant product availability.

EPA Future Efforts

- Now that EPA has released guidance for registrants seeking to register products with residual or long-lasting efficacy, EPA will expedite the registration or amendment process for such products, speeding their arrival into the market.
- EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) will continue to conduct residual durability and efficacy testing on a subset of products.
- EPA's ORD will continue testing under Biosafety Level 3, using SARS CoV-2 to confirm the suitability of other human coronaviruses as surrogate organisms for SARS CoV-2 and the efficacy of a subset of List N products specifically against SARS CoV-2.



Questions