



## Eco-Healthy Child Care

### **Train the Trainer: Fact Sheet Washington December 2008**

#### **1. How many children, under the age of 18, in Washington have asthma?**

122,934 children, under the age of 18, have asthma. This age group numbers 1,324,718 which means 9.3 % of children in WA have asthma.

(American Lung Association State of the Air: 2008; [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org))

#### **2. What are the state licensing regulations on the application of pesticides in or near the child care facility?**

##### **Family Home Child Care--170-296-0760**

(1) You must keep your premises free from pests, using the least toxic method possible. This includes rodents, flies, cockroaches, fleas, and other insects.

(2) You must notify parents, guardians and any other interested party forty-eight hours in advance of the application of pesticides.

##### **Child Day Care Center--170-295-5040**

(3)(b) Take measures to control rodents, fleas, cockroaches, and other pests in and around the center premises such as:

- (i) Keep all trash and garbage cans tightly sealed;
- (ii) Screen open windows and doors;
- (iii) Seal and store food properly; and
- (iv) Keep floors and other areas free from crumbs and food debris.

##### **Child Day Care Center--170-295-5160**

(1) To use pesticides, you must comply with licensing requirements of chapter 17.21 RCW (The Pesticide Application Act) which requires you to:

- (a) Establish a policy on the use of pesticides that includes your posting and notification requirements;
  - (b) Provide to parents a written copy of your pesticide policies that includes your posting and notification requirements annually or on enrollment;
  - (c) Notify parents, guardians, and any other interested parties forty-eight hours in advance of the application of pesticides; and
  - (d) Require the pesticide applicator to provide a copy of the records required within twenty-four hours of when the pesticide is applied.
- (2) Your notification must include a heading stating "Notice: Pesticide Application and..." at a minimum must state the:
- (a) Product name of the pesticide being used;
  - (b) Intended date and time of application;
  - (c) Location where the pesticide will be applied;
  - (d) Pest to be controlled; and
  - (e) Name and number of a contact person at the facility.

- (3) To notify people that a pesticide has been used, you must place a marker at each primary point of entry to the center grounds. The marker must be:
- (a) A minimum of four inches by five inches;
  - (b) Printed in colors contrasting to the background; and
  - (c) Left in place for at least twenty-four hours following the pesticide application or longer if a longer restricted period is stated on the label.
- (4) The marker must include:
- (a) A headline that states "This landscape has recently been sprayed or treated with pesticides";
  - (b) Who has treated the landscape; and
  - (c) Who to call for more information.

### **3. Is there a state program working on promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Washington?**

Yes. Go to the Washington State University Extension Integrated Pest Management website at <http://ipm.wsu.edu/>. You will find fact sheets for getting rid of common pests using IPM. Follow the link "Urban IPM"/"Pestsense."

### **4. What are the state licensing regulations on smoking on or near a child care property?**

#### **Family Home Care Center--170-296-0790**

- (1) You must prohibit smoking in your family home child care during all hours of operation (licensed or unlicensed space), and in motor vehicles while transporting children.
- (2) You may permit adults to smoke outdoors in unlicensed space and out of view of children.

#### **Child Day Care Center--170-295-6050**

- (2) You, your staff, parents, and volunteers must not smoke:
  - (a) Inside the center building;
  - (b) While supervising children outdoors; or
  - (c) In a motor vehicle while transporting children.
- (3) You, your staff, parents, and volunteers may smoke outdoors, off the premises and out of view of the children.

### **5. What are the state regulations on using candles, air fresheners, and perfumes within the child care program?**

#### **Family Home Care Center--170-296-0610**

- (5) You must not leave on open-flame devices capable of igniting clothing, or leave them unattended or allowed to be used in a way that could result in an accidental ignition of children's clothing. You must not use, or allow the use of candles during operating hours.

### **6. What are the regulations on types of cleaners allowed/disallowed in child care programs?**

See #7 below.

### **7. Do child care centers have to use State licensing regulations for sanitizing and disinfecting?**

### **Child Care Center 170-295-5040**

- (4) Surfaces can be cleaned:
  - (a) With any cleaning solution such as soap and water, cleanser or cleaning spray;
  - (b) With a concentration according to label directions; and
  - (c) Rinsed as needed per label directions.
- (5) You may use a bleach solution to sanitize in the following areas:
  - (a) Diapering areas;
  - (b) Surfaces exposed to body fluids;
  - (c) Bathrooms and bathroom equipment;
  - (d) Table tops;
  - (e) High chairs;
  - (f) Toys;
  - (g) Dishes;
  - (h) Floors; and
  - (i) Sleeping mats.
- (6) You may use any solution that is intended for sanitizing if the solution is approved by the department. When you use a product other than bleach to sanitize, you must:
  - (a) Follow the label directions for use including concentration, contact time and rinsing; and
  - (b) Be sure that if you use the product on food contact surfaces and items that children might put into their mouths, the label states the product is safe for food contact surfaces.
- (7) The following are surfaces that need to be cleaned and sanitized and a minimum schedule for that cleaning:
  - (a) Tables and counters used for food serving and high chairs before and after each meal or snack;
  - (b) Sinks, counters and floors daily, or more often if necessary;
  - (c) Refrigerators monthly or more often as needed;
  - (d) Bathrooms (including sinks, toilets, counters and floors) daily and more often if necessary;
  - (e) Floors will be swept, cleaned and sanitized daily;
  - (f) Carpet vacuumed at least daily and shampooed as needed but at least every six months;
  - (g) Toys that children place in their mouth between use by different children;
  - (h) Infant and toddler toys daily; and
  - (i) Sleeping mats, cribs and other forms of bedding between use by different children and at least weekly.
- (8) Your health policies and procedures must describe your frequency for general cleaning, dusting, cleaning toys, toy shelves, and equipment.

### **8. Are child care facilities tested for lead - in paint and water - before receiving a state child care license?**

There is no direct mention of lead in the child care regulations. See requirements pertaining to water below.

### **Family Home Care Center 170-296-1140**

You must provide:

- (1) Drinking water supplied from:
  - (a) A public water supply regulated by Washington state department of health drinking water operations or the local health authority as appropriate; or
  - (b) An individual water supply operated and maintained in a manner acceptable to the local health authority; or
  - (c) Commercially bottled water.
- (2) Disposable paper cups or individual drinking cups.

### **Child Day Care Center 170-295-5070**

- (1) You must have hot and cold running water.

(2) Hot water that is accessible to children must be between 85 degrees Fahrenheit and 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

(3) To be sure your water is safe for drinking, cleaning, cooking and hand washing, you must:

(a) Receive drinking water from a public water system approved by and maintained in compliance with either the department of health or a local health jurisdiction under chapter 246-290 WAC (Group A systems) or chapter 246-291 WAC (Group B systems); or

(b) Have a source of potable water approved for child care center use by the state department of health or the local health jurisdiction; and

(c) Take any other actions required or requested by the state department of health, the local health jurisdiction or the department of social and health services to ensure the safety and reliability of the water supply.

(4) If your water connection is interrupted or your water source becomes contaminated:

(a) A correction must be made within twenty-four hours or the facility must close until corrections can be made; or

(b) The facility must obtain an alternative source of potable water approved by the state department of health or local health jurisdiction in an amount adequate to ensure the requirements in this chapter for safe drinking water, hand washing, sanitizing, dishwashing, and cooking are met.

## **9. Are lead testing kits available at state Public Health Departments, if so, are they free?**

Contact the Washington State Department of Health's Childhood Lead Program

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHP/lead/>) or your local health department

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm>) to inquire about the availability of lead testing kits.

Note:

Under the national Lead-Based Paint Program which went into effect in 1998, only certified lead-based paint abatement contractors can do lead-based paint abatement activities in residential dwellings and child-occupied facilities built before 1978 (lead was banned as an additive in house paint in 1978). Examples of lead-based paint activities are inspections for determining lead in paint, risk assessments to find lead-based paint hazards, and abatement, which is designed to permanently remove lead-based paint hazards.

## **10. Are there regulations regarding using mercury-containing thermometers in child care centers?**

### **Family Home Care Center 170-296-0830**

You must keep a first-aid kit on hand for immediate use, in the licensed space of your child care, on a field trip and in your vehicle if you transport children. The first-aid kit must include:

...

(7) A mercury free thermometer for taking a child's temperature.

## **11. Have any of the chemicals in toxic flame retardants (PBDEs) been banned?**

Yes. The Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 1024 which phases out the use of all forms of PBDEs in many household products. The bill does the following:

- Bans the use of the penta and octa forms of PBDEs, with limited exceptions, by 2008.
- Bans the use of the deca form in mattresses by 2008.
- Bans the use of the deca form in televisions, computers, and residential upholstered furniture by 2011, as long as a safer, reasonable, and effective alternative has been identified by the state departments of Ecology and Health and approved by fire safety officials.

\*All regulations noted in this document are state regulations. Some cities and/or counties in Washington may have additional regulations. Check with city or county governments to find out if there are additional standards.

The ban does not apply to many deca uses, including in airplanes and vehicles. The ban targets items found in the home because the greatest exposure concerns are for infants and children.

The bill is available at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/1024-S.E.pdf>

**12. Have phthalates or BPA been banned, or is the state crafting legislation about banning these toxins?**

HB 2647 bans phthalates, lead and cadmium. In addition, the bill requires the state to compile a list of high-hazard chemicals and requires that manufacturers of children's products disclose to the state if these chemicals are used in children's products.

The bill is available at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2647.pdf>

**13. Are centers required to use non-toxic art supplies as approved by ACMI...or another institute?**

No.

**14. Are the child care centers asked to recycle by licensing entities – is recycling common?**

Recycling is not required by regulation. Recycling is a common practice in Washington.

**15. Is there a state resource/agency that provides free blood-lead-level tests?**

If you are unable to have children tested through their usual health care providers, contact the Washington State Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 360-236-3359 or 1-800-909-9898. They will let you know about any community resources in your area that could help get your children tested. The Department of Health also has portable blood lead analyzers that child care providers can borrow to test children for lead. A nurse must do the finger-stick. If there is not a nurse at the child care center, then you may be able to work with a nurse at your local health jurisdiction.

## RCW 17.21.415

### Schools — Policies and methods — Notification — Records — Liability.

(1) As used in this section, "school" means a licensed day care center or a public kindergarten or a public elementary or secondary school.

(2) A school shall provide written notification annually or upon enrollment to parents or guardians of students and employees describing the school's pest control policies and methods, including the posting and notification requirements of this section.

(3) A school shall establish a notification system that, as a minimum, notifies interested parents or guardians of students and employees at least forty-eight hours before a pesticide application to a school facility. The notification system shall include posting of the notification in a prominent place in the main office of the school.

(4) All notifications to parents, guardians, and employees shall include the heading "Notice: Pesticide Application" and, at a minimum, shall state:

- (a) The product name of the pesticide to be applied;
- (b) The intended date and time of application;
- (c) The location to which the pesticide is to be applied;
- (d) The pest to be controlled; and
- (e) The name and phone number of a contact person at the school.

(5) A school facility application must be made within forty-eight hours following the intended date and time stated in the notification or the notification process shall be repeated.

(6) A school shall, at the time of application, post notification signs for all pesticide applications made to school facilities unless the application is otherwise required to be posted by a certified applicator under the provisions of RCW [17.21.410\(1\)\(d\)](#).

(a) Notification signs for applications made to school grounds by school employees shall be placed at the location of the application and at each primary point of entry to the school grounds. The signs shall be a minimum of four inches by five inches and shall include the words: "THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN RECENTLY SPRAYED OR TREATED WITH PESTICIDES BY YOUR SCHOOL" as the headline and "FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL" as the footer. The footer shall provide the name and telephone number of a contact person at the school.

(b) Notification signs for applications made to school facilities other than school grounds shall be posted at the location of the application. The signs shall be a minimum of eight and one-half by eleven inches and shall include the heading "Notice: Pesticide Application" and, at a minimum, shall state:

- (i) The product name of the pesticide applied;

**\*All regulations noted in this document are state regulations. Some cities and/or counties in Washington may have additional regulations. Check with city or county governments to find out if there are additional standards.**

(ii) The date and time of application;

(iii) The location to which the pesticide was applied;

(iv) The pest to be controlled; and

(v) The name and phone number of a contact person at the school.

(c) Notification signs shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background.

(d) Notification signs shall remain in place for at least twenty-four hours from the time the application is completed. In the event the pesticide label requires a restricted entry interval greater than twenty-four hours, the notification sign shall remain in place consistent with the restricted entry interval time as required by the label.

(7) A school facility application does not include the application of antimicrobial pesticides or the placement of insect or rodent baits that are not accessible to children.

(8) The prenotification requirements of this section do not apply if the school facility application is made when the school is not occupied by students for at least two consecutive days after the application.

(9) The prenotification requirements of this section do not apply to any emergency school facility application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an emergency school facility application is made, notification consistent with the school's notification system shall occur as soon as possible after the application. The notification shall include information consistent with subsection (6)(b) of this section.

(10) A school shall make the records of all pesticide applications to school facilities required under this chapter, including an annual summary of the records, readily accessible to interested persons.

(11) A school is not liable for the removal of signs by unauthorized persons. A school that complies with this section may not be held liable for personal property damage or bodily injury resulting from signs that are placed as required.

[2001 c 333 § 3.]

## **Notes:**

**Effective date -- 2001 c 333:** See note following RCW [17.21.020](#).