
MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CHARTER SCHOOL

PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS

EBAB

The health and safety of students, staff, and the community is our first priority, as well as a prerequisite to learning. Thus, MC² shall provide an environment that is as free as reasonably possible of known hazardous substances.

Committee & Coordinator

MC² will appoint a committee, either independently or as a responsibility of another committee that includes both staff and members of the MC² community, to approve pesticide use; for periodic progress review of pesticide use and any use, storage, disposal, or exposure to toxic chemicals; and to other activities as needed to oversee the implementation of the least-toxic pest management program and limitation of exposure to hazardous substances.

The Executive Director or their designee will act as the Coordinator (“Coordinator”) for this policy and be responsible for ensuring appropriate training; notification and record-keeping, use of least-toxic pesticides; limitation of use, storage, and exposure to toxic chemicals; and other activities to address this policy.

Toxic Chemicals

At this time, MC² does not use or store toxic chemicals and hazardous substances. In the future, should MC² have a need, for the purposes of learning activities or building maintenance, to use chemicals and hazardous substances, the following will be done:

1. At no time will students bring chemicals or hazardous materials into MC². Staff will not bring cleaning products, pesticides, and/or any other hazardous materials into the facility without approval from the administration.
2. Use, storage, and disposal will be in compliance with federal, state, and local laws, as well as warning labels and manufacturers instructions.
3. When a reasonable alternative is available, MC² staff or contractors should aim to choose the least toxic version of any chemical or hazardous substance.
4. All staff, students and community members who are expected to interact with such substances will be trained in proper use, handling, storage, disposal, and transfer of such substances, along with protocols in the event of an emergency related to such substances.
5. Response to a release of hazardous materials (whether internal or external to the school) shall be as delineated in the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
6. Annually, the Coordinator will identify and inventory all chemicals and hazardous substances, and properly dispose of unidentified chemicals and suspected hazardous substances. They shall also maintain Material Safety Data Sheets, along with documentation of any disposal, and make them easily accessible to authorities and the public as needed and permitted or required by law.

- a. Material Data Sheets will include the following information: identity of the chemical or hazardous substance, manufacturer or supplier information, hazardous ingredients, physical/chemical characteristics, fire and explosion data, reactivity data, health hazard data, precautions for safe handling and use, and control measures.
 - b. Federal and state laws provide exemptions from certain regulatory requirements for conditionally exempt small quantity generators; i.e., those entities or locations that generate waste in amounts below statutory or regulatory threshold amounts. Decisions regarding the disposal of hazardous substances shall to the extent reasonably possible preserve MC²'s conditionally exempt small quantity generator status.
7. Areas for storage of substances that are or might become hazardous, along with hazardous substances that have been declared waste and are being held for disposal shall be designated. All related containers shall be labeled to show the date they were received by MC², the shelf-life (if known), any specific warning or hazard information, and the expiration date (if any). When possible, they should be stored and used in a manner ensuring the oldest substances are used first.

Pesticides and Pest Management

MC² will use a pest control approach that emphasizes using a balanced combination of tactics (cultural, mechanical, biological, chemical) to reduce pests (organisms including plants and animals that pose various risks) to a tolerable level. MC² will use pesticides and herbicides as a last resort to minimize health, environmental and economic risks.

1. Staff, students, and the MC² community will be educated about pest problems associated with school settings, the components of MC²'s pest management plan, related policies and procedures, and their roles in achieving pest-free schools.
2. MC² staff and contractors will participate in sanitation and pest exclusion procedures appropriate to their roles. For example: keeping doors closed, repairing cracks, removing food waste within 12 hours, keeping lids on garbage receptacles and keeping vegetation properly out.
3. When pesticides or herbicides are used, they must be classified as an EPA Category III or IV. Application of any pesticide or herbicide may be performed only by certified applicators.
4. No pesticide will be used if MC² does not have information on all pesticide ingredients.
5. Application of pesticides and herbicides on behalf of MC² may only be accomplished during a school break or when the building will be clear of students for at least 48 hours.
6. Application of pesticides will be conducted by an individual licensed to do so. At no time shall unlicensed staff use pesticides.

Notification and Timing

1. MC² will notify families annually about MC²'s pest control activities and any current or planned use and/or potential exposure to chemicals and hazardous materials, including information regarding relevant policies and procedures.

2. Pesticide notification signs shall be posted at a prominent place at the school, including entry points to the site of application prior to any pesticide application. Signs shall remain in place for one week after pesticide application, or a longer period of time if specified by the pesticide label.
 - a. Posted notices shall be at least 8.5 by 11 inches and include the following:
Clear header with "NOTICE: Pesticide Application", signal word from the pesticide label and product name (e.g. DANGER: Confront), active ingredient(s), intended date and time of application, location and area applied, rate of application, pest to be controlled, "FOR MORE INFORMATION" along with the name and phone number of the contact person and where label and Material Safety Data Sheets may be obtained, and a boxed-off warning stating:
"CAUTION: Individuals taking medication, pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with respiratory or heart disease, chemical sensitivities, or weakened immune systems may be particularly susceptible to adverse health effects due to pesticide exposure."
3. For pesticides and herbicides:
 - a. Students, staff and parents/guardians will be notified at least 24-48 hours prior to any pesticide application. For emergency applications where an imminent threat to health exists (e.g., stinging insects), students, staff, and parents/guardians will be notified within 24 hours after the pesticide application.
 - b. If used outdoors, notice of their use will be provided to parents/guardians, staff and students and will also be posted in a common area.
 - c. If used in a building, the site will provide a prenotification in the form of posting the product name, purpose, application date, time and method and the Material Safety Data Sheet on all entrance doors. A contact person will also be listed.
 - d. In the event of an EPA registered pesticide or herbicide application in or around a building site during school or over a break, a notice (including the product name, purpose, contact person, and application date, time and method), will be sent home with students or emailed to families in the affected building prior to application.
 - e. At no time should pesticides be applied by aerial methods.
4. MC² will maintain a list of chemically-sensitive students, staff, and others requesting special consideration in the event of use of pesticides. MC² will make an effort to address their concerns and special needs related to pesticide applications and, when possible, provide individuals with personal notification two weeks prior to planned pesticide use.

Recordkeeping

1. MC² will keep a record of the following:
 - a. All chemicals and hazardous substances used, stored, transferred, or disposed of by MC².
 - b. Alternative pest control measures and any pesticides and herbicides used by or on behalf of MC², target pest(s), and amounts and locations of treatments, and will keep any Material Safety Data Sheets, along with product labels and

manufacturer information on ingredients related to the application of the pesticides or herbicides.

- c. Notifications made to or by MC² related to chemicals, hazardous substances, and/or pesticides and herbicides.
2. All records of storage, transfer, disposal, and use of chemicals, hazardous substances, and pesticides and herbicides, along with related correspondence, will be available for public review upon notice and during normal school hours.

Progress Review

The Committee and Coordinator will annually review MC²'s use and storage of toxic chemicals and hazardous substances and its pest management program to evaluate continued use and storage plus how well its pest prevention and control objectives are being met. They will identify areas where improvement is needed and prepare a report containing the following information:

1. Use, storage, transfer, and disposal of chemicals and hazardous substances
2. Non-chemical pest prevention and control measures used and quantities of each pesticide applied during the previous year, along with the target pest for each pesticide used.
3. Management and training for use of chemicals and hazardous substances and pest management plan for the coming year.

The report will be provided to the Board of Trustees and made available to the public upon request.

Exemptions

The above restrictions and requirements do not apply to janitorial service contractors applying general use disinfectants, sanitizers, and mildew control agents to control microorganisms on nonliving entities, provided that these disinfectants, sanitizers, and mildew control agents are not applied as space sprays and that these pesticides are labeled exclusively for disinfecting, sanitizing, and mildew control.

The use of insecticide or rodenticide baits in pre-manufactured, tamper-resistant containers placed in areas inaccessible to children, insecticide baits in gel or paste form placed in cracks and crevices inaccessible to children, and antimicrobial pesticides, including sanitizers and disinfectants, are exempt from notification, posting and exclusion requirements unless specified otherwise on label directions. Rodenticide baits in tamper-proof containers are exempt from exclusion requirements, but must be labeled with all other posting requirements on the exterior of each container. Such containers should be limited to areas normally inaccessible to children.

Right to Appeal

Parents, staff, and neighbors may appeal pesticide use plans to the Committee. Notification of this right will be provided annually, as well as with any additional notification of a particular planned use of pesticides during the school year. The Committee will consider all appeals

received in a timely fashion prior to the planned pesticide application. Appeals received closer to the application date will be considered by the Coordinator.

Community Application of Policy

MC² will work with our landlord to minimize exposure to pesticides, chemicals, and hazardous materials utilized both indoors and outdoors for MC², as well as for adjacent properties to MC². Any future addendum to or new lease should include the following:

1. Notification to the Coordinator of any planned use of pesticides in or near MC², with enough time to allow MC² to properly notify staff and families. When reasonable, an attempt to use the least-toxic pesticide application possible. Application of any hazardous material should be done outside of school hours with a 48 hour window before students and staff return to campus.
2. Notification to the Coordinator of any knowledge of use or storage of toxic chemicals and hazardous materials.
3. Notification to the Coordinator in the event of a release of hazardous materials.

References:

[Model Pesticide Safety and IPM Guidance Policy for School Districts](#) - Center of Expertise for School IPM

NH - [Code Admin. R. Pes 506.07](#); NH - [Rev Stat § 430:46](#); NH - [Admin Rules Pes 508.01](#);
[USDA Integrated Pest Management](#), MA - [Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2000](#)

Other district policies, e.g. [Pentucket Regional School District](#), [Poudre School District](#)

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Date(s) Revised:

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