

ADDRESSING THE HEALTH
AND SAFETY NEEDS OF OUR
53 SUBSCRIBING NASSAU
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Health & Safety *focus*

Respiratory Protection: N95 Respirator Use

Recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended the use of N95 respirators to protect healthcare workers providing direct care for individuals that exhibit influenza-like illness (which currently is assumed to be H1N1). This includes school nurses and others providing direct patient care. Since there is no existing law, the New York State Labor Department will be enforcing the CDC recommendations under the General Duty Clause (29 U.S.C. §654, 5(a) 1) which states that, *Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.* This process has also been utilized in the past for other enforcement issues. On December 7th, the Nassau County Depart-

ment of Health provided a conference call for school districts on this issue which included representatives from the New York State Departments of Health, Education, and Labor. Although there is controversy on the need for this in schools and many questions still remain unanswered, Nassau BOCES has provided all the tools necessary to achieve compliance. School districts can access all compliance components at www.nassauschoolemergency.org and obtain the following:

1. Overview: N95 Respirator Issue
2. Written Compliance Plan
3. On-Line Training
4. List of N95 Respirator Suppliers
5. OEM N95 Request Form
6. Medical Review & Fit Test

Please review all information on the website and feel free to contact us with any questions at 396-2387 or e-mail



Nassau County Fertilizer Law

In September of 2009, Nassau County Local Law No. 11-2009 (Nassau County Fertilizer Law) became effective and bans the application of fertilizers between the months of November 15th through April 1st. The purpose of the law is to reduce the amount of nitrogen released into the environment. During that time period, which is usually the coldest time of the year, any applied fertilizer is not absorbed since the ground is frozen. According to Nassau County Legislator Dave Denenberg, *The use of fertilizers during the cold weather months results in nitrogen run-off and leaching which leads to contaminated drinking water, storm water, ground water as well as to the pollution of our waterways, wetlands and estuaries.* Unlike a similar Suffolk County law, this legislation will also apply to golf courses.



Health & Safety Compliance

Current answers to common compliance questions arising in school districts.

Q. What are the notification requirements for schools applying fertilizers?

Unless the fertilizer contains other additives such as weed control, no notification is required.

Q. Is it true that if a school uses exempt products such as Boric Acid for pest control, notification is not required?

Yes, however, the application must still be conducted by a certified pesticide applicator.

Q. What is the required training for the asbestos Designated Person?

No specific course is designated but the EPA recommends the Inspector Management Planner Course.

Q. What employees in the school district are covered under OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard?

Only those employees that



have been determined to have occupational exposure to blood and have been documented in the Exposure Control Plan. Only these employees are then required to receive annual training and the opportunity to be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

Q. Under the SAVE legislation, how often does the District-wide Safety Team need to meet?

There is no specific requirement - some meet once a year, others every month. You need to determine how many meetings you need to accomplish your goals—it is usually a minimum of four times per school year.

Q. How many emergency drills am I required to conduct in my school district?

Aside from the required fire drills and go-home early drills, a realistic emergency exercise must be completed in every building every year. This could be an evacuation, sheltering, lockdown, etc.

Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

Health & Safety Training and Information Service

Nassau BOCES Administrative Center

71 Clinton Road Garden City, N.Y. 11530



The Nassau BOCES Health & Safety Focus is a review of health and safety issues for subscribing school districts. Questions and comments on this document are welcome. Please contact the Health & Safety Training and Information Service staff at: 516-396-2387, or fax to 516-997-0446, or e-mail pladuca@mail.nasboces.org.



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