Mansfield ISD
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT *(IPM)* PROGRAM

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?
Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems for people, property and the environment. Pesticides and herbicides also pose risks to people, property and the environment. This is why the Mansfield ISD has chosen to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to control structural and landscape pests.

The term "Integrated Pest Management" or IPM, refers to the integration of several approaches and methods of pest control into a pest management system. It used to be that the answer to almost any pest problem was *"come spray for them."* The old way did not take into account why the pests were there to begin with, what might be done to get rid of them without introducing poisonous chemicals into the environment, or which pesticide would be the least toxic one to use on this particular pest that would still eliminate them effectively.

IPM strategies are based on knowing as much as possible about the biology of pests, what they eat, where they nest, when they breed and what conditions they need to thrive. Accurate identification of pests is a very important part of any IPM plan because if you do not know exactly what you are trying to get rid oF, you can not know the best way to control it. IPM strategies include monitoring for pests so that we know they are present before they become deeply entrenched, preventive measures to limit pest problems, and the use of thresholds to determine when corrective control measures are needed. By knowing these things and exploiting pests' own biology/likes/dislikes to rid ourselves of them, we may be able to make our schools an unwelcoming place for pests. At the very least, we will certainly decrease the amount of pesticides required to control them through better knowledge of our prey. Our hope is that we will provide such an unappealing place to pests that they will not want to live here and will want to go to the next place down the road where life is easier, so to speak. When IPM principles are applied to a given pest problem, environmental impact and economic risks will be minimized. As a result, implementation of IPM principles and practices is advocated in various federal and state regulations affecting the use of pesticides.

Why do we use IPM?
Besides making good sense, section 1951.212 of the Texas Occupations Code, otherwise known as the "IPM in schools law", mandates that all public schools in Texas use IPM strategies to reduce the amount of pesticides used around students and to make sure that the pesticides we do use are used sparingly and only when necessary. When possible and practical, we will control pests without the use of pesticides. This may be accomplished through increased sanitation, physical exclusion, cultural practices or other means. Chemical control is still necessary under certain circumstances and when we do use chemicals, we will use the least toxic pesticide that will do the job. If we find that this chemical is not working we may use a more potent one, but our aim is to severely limit the amount of pesticides used on school property, and in particular, the classroom environment. IPM not only helps control pests, it saves money by sealing our buildings better through the use of weather stripping around doors, caulking around windows, etc. We will also reap the benefit of increased equipment life by stopping conditioned air from escaping to the outside. By promptly repairing dripping faucets we will conserve water and in the case of hot water faucets, we will also save the energy used to heat that water.

Date of last revision: 10-5-2020
MISD IPM Coordinator: Nathan Thompson
NathanThompson@misdmail.org 817-299-4349

Mansfield ISD
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT *(IPM)* PROGRAM

What can I do to help with the district's IPM program?
An effective Integrated Pest Management Program must have the cooperation of the entire school staff including teachers, aides, nurses, food service workers, custodians, maintenance workers and administrators. All of these people need to know the basic concepts of integrated pest management and how they are used to control pest problems within schools.

One thing you can do to help is to tell us as much as you can about the pests you are reporting when you see them. You won't need to know whether it was an American Roach or a Brown Banded roach when reporting the problem, but you should be able to tell us whether the pest is an ant, beetle, roach, rodent or spider. You should also be able to tell us where, specifically, the pest was seen. Saying, "Ants were in room 3" is not a good enough description to allow us to quickly and efficiently locate the source of the pests. However, if the description said, "Ants are in room 3 just to the left of the teachers desk, going into an electrical outlet," we would know exactly where to place our baits in case we did not see the ants when we inspected. We would also know that the ants were most likely Pharaoh ants because they are small enough to go into electrical outlets which are one of this breed's commonly used nesting sites. Each detail you provide makes it that much more likely that we will be successful in controlling your problem quickly.

The most important contribution that staff and students can make to an effective IPM program is sanitation. Many of the pest problems in schools can be reduced, or even prevented from occurring altogether if students and staff ensure that proper sanitation practices are followed. Pests need only shelter, food and water to survive. The shelter is our buildings, so we cannot remove shelter from the equation. Water is extremely difficult to eliminate since even a drop of water on the bottom of a sink can take care of a colony of ants or dozens of roaches. The one thing we do have a large degree of control over is food. If we remove food from the equation many pests can be eliminated without the use of pesticides. This is why sanitation plays such a vital role in pest control and, in particular, IPM.

Sanitation practices include, but are not limited to:

- Disposing of food scraps, crumbs and empty soft drink or juice box containers promptly.
- Sealing snack items in pest-resistant, airtight containers (like Tupperware, not zippered storage bags which Pharaoh ants or rodents can easily defeat) when they are to be stored.
- Cleaning food and/or drink spills immediately and thoroughly.
- Keeping doors and windows closed to prevent pests from entering your building.
- Wiping crumbs from areas after dining, especially in break rooms and offices.
- Washing and stowing plates and other lunch items immediately after use – do not leave them sitting in the sink all day or overnight.
- Wiping counters near sugar bowls/coffee preparation areas in break rooms frequently.
- Never leaving opened packages of cookies or other treats on desks or break room tables.
- Decreasing harborage and breeding sites by eliminating clutter in offices, classrooms and closets.

Date of last revision: 10-5-2020
MISD IPM Coordinator: Nathan Thompson
NathanThompson@misdmail.org 817-299-4349

How do we decide which method of control is best?

Trained personnel or a contracted service provider will inspect the area when pests are reported. The pest control technician will identify the pest and determine whether treatment by increased sanitation, mechanical means, or pesticides will be required. The IPM Coordinator, or their designee, will verify which treatment is appropriate if there are any questions. Chemicals can only be applied when students are not present and are not expected to return to the treated area for a specified amount of time according to the chemical being used. It is extremely rare that we would actually spray a chemical to control a pest. We have better, safer ways to control pests these days and use things like gel baits placed in cracks and crevices, insect growth regulators (think birth control for pests), and other low toxicity methods of treatment. If the job requires structural modification or repairs to the structure, the technician will report these needs to the IPM coordinator so that he may create a work order for corrective action. A follow up inspection may be required to determine if the areas are being maintained to prevent the recurrence of infestations.

Classification of problems

When pests are sighted they should be reported to the Maintenance Department as soon as possible. Response to your report will be classified as Emergency or Routine.

- **Emergency treatments** - If the pests are alarming in numbers, if they present a clear and immediate danger to people (venomous snakes, bees indoors, wasp nests), or if they make it impossible to carry out your core duties, notify the Maintenance Department immediately by calling (817) 299-4345. Immediately after calling, create a follow-up work order to document the call. Emergency calls will be responded to immediately by district personnel. **Do not report non-emergency pest issues by phone.**
- **Routine treatments** – If the pest is something that does not bite or sting, it is probably a routine pest control issue. Things like roaches, silverfish, sugar ants, non-venomous spiders and the like should be reported via our work order system. Basically, anything that is not an emergency, as described above, falls into this category. Depending on the pest, it may take up to a few days for someone to inspect and act on the problem.
- **Animals** - Problems with dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks or other such animals that are threatening student or staff safety should be reported directly to animal control for the city in which your campus is located. The maintenance department should also be notified by telephone or by work order of the problem.

How can I report a pest problem?

Each campus has a designated person that reports pest control issues. This person is often the Principal, the Assistant Principal or a key staff member in the front office such as the Principal's secretary. The person reporting the pests should be ready to provide information to help us locate and eliminate the problem. We will need this information whether the problem is reported by telephone or by work order. They should be prepared to tell us:

- Their campus/location and what kind of pest/s are causing the problem.
- The specific location of problem, for example: "room B-12 near the teacher's desk," or "on the grounds, near the big tree at the NE corner of the campus."
- If the problem is an immediate threat to students and staff, such as biting or stinging insects.

Date of last revision: 10-5-2020
MISD IPM Coordinator: Nathan Thompson
NathanThompson@misdmail.org 817-299-4349

Descriptions like "Third grade hall" or "Enrichment corridor" may mean nothing to the pest control technician who will be servicing the area so please give room numbers when possible. If the area does not have a room number, be sure to give a description that will allow someone not familiar with the building to find the area in question. Since the pest control technician will be coming after-hours to treat the area, it is extremely important that you give us accurate, concise descriptions of where the pests were seen so that he can find and eliminate them on his first visit. If he cannot find the pests, he will be severely limited as to what he can do to help you get rid of them.

Will someone always come out when we call?

When practical, information will be given to you as to what can be done to eliminate problems without chemical control or a visit from a technician.

- Problems such as spiders in corners or non-stinging insects like beetles or crickets may be removed by having the custodian vacuum them up.
- Regularly and promptly removing spider webs will help control spider populations
- Ant trails may be vacuumed up and their trail sanitized with a mild cleaning agent. *Be sure to tell us where the trail was located so we can get rid of the nest later.*

Why don't you just spray the hallways on a scheduled basis?

We can not legally "*Spray the building for bugs,*" or, *"Spray the baseboards in the West hallway for roaches,"* or anything to that effect because that would not be using IPM principles, which state that we will treat for specific, targeted pests in specific, targeted areas. We need to know what pest was seen, and where it was seen. If we were to walk down the hall spraying pesticides as we went, we might kill some pests, but we might not. If there were no pests for the pesticide to kill, what would be gained by the application of pesticides? This would introduce pesticides into the children's environment needlessly.

How do you decide whether to use chemical or non-chemical control measures?

Whenever possible, we will first use non-chemical control measures such as increased sanitation, the elimination of clutter, physical exclusion (seal buildings tightly so pests can't get in), etc. If that will not solve the particular problem, we will encourage the use of baits in cracks and crevices, and the use of insect growth regulators or baits in sealed containers or applied in cracks and crevices where appropriate. If more potent chemicals are determined to be the best way to control the pests, we will preferentially use the least toxic pesticide that will do the job.

What Threshold level triggers action?

Thresholds vary for pests according to several factors including the pest, the risk they pose to building occupants or the structure, their location and the occupation of the space. Here are some of the most common pests encountered in schools and how we respond to their presence:

Ants (common house infesting)	Action Threshold	Response
Classrooms and other public areas	10/room	Inspect, exclude if possible, remove attractants, use baits, aerosols used only if other treatments are not practical/effective
Infirmary	5/room	Same as above
Kitchen	10/room	Same as above

MISD IPM Coordinator: Nathan Thompson
NathanThompson@misdmail.org 817-299-4349

Maintenance/storage areas	20/100 square feet	Same as above

Ants (Fire)	Action Threshold	Response
Classrooms and other public areas	5/room	Inspect, exclude if possible, remove attractants, use baits, aerosols used only if other treatments are not practical/effective
Infirmary	3/room	Same as above
Kitchen	5/room	Same as above
Maintenance and storage areas	10/100 square feet	Same as above

Bees (Honey)	Threshold	Response
Classrooms, infirmary, kitchen and public areas	3/room	Swat, inspect for entry points/nests
Maintenance/storage areas	5/room	Swat, inspect for entry points

Outdoors – No action unless children/staff are threatened. Migrating swarms to be secured with temporary fencing to keep people away until swarm moves on.

Cockroaches	Action Threshold	Response
Classrooms and other public areas	4-10 roaches	search for infestation, review sanitation, remove clutter, vacuum or otherwise clean the room. Apply baits.
Infirmary	2 roaches trigger above actions	
Kitchen	4 roaches trigger above actions	
Maintenance/storage areas	5 roaches/room trigger above actions	

Rodents (Mice and Rats)	Action Threshold	Response
Indoors	1sighting or evidence of mice	Search for entry points, review sanitation, remove clutter, set traps
Outdoors	Any noticeable burrows or activity in student areas	triggers inspection, cleaning if needed, placement of rodent bait station in area if appropriate.

Wasps/Hornets	Action Threshold	Response
Indoors	1 if students or staff are threatened	Swat, inspect for entry points/nests
Outdoors	1 nest located near activity areas	Kill and remove nests

WHAT IF I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IPM?

If you would like to know more about pest identification, reporting procedures, record keeping and other items of this nature for the MISD, you may contact the IPM Coordinator. Their email address is listed at the bottom of this form. You can also write to, or visit our Maintenance office located at 203 Hillcrest St., Mansfield, TX. 76063. Some good internet sites for pest information and IPM guidance are:

http://schoolipm.tamu.edu
http://www.tda.state.tx.us/spcs/
http://insectsinthecity.blogspot.com/

Date of last revision: 10-5-2020
MISD IPM Coordinator: Nathan Thompson
NathanThompson@misdmail.org 817-299-4349