

Donna Boggs

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To: Donna Boggs
Subject: AAMSI Update on COVID-19 Situation

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SPECIAL **COVID-19 UPDATE**
FROM YOUR TEAM AT AAMSI



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New Guidance for Businesses Issued as State Begins Process of Reopening

Things continue to change rapidly as the Governor announced new executive orders yesterday as the state moves into Phase 2 of modifying the state's stay-at-home order beginning today. Much criticism surrounds the Governor's phased-in approach with respect to the which businesses have been selected for Phase 2 'reopening.' Numerous stipulations are in place for all businesses that present challenges for all of us.

The recommendation is for each business to review the new guidance and prepare a plan based on the guidance for their industry and put it into action. New guidance for Agriculture and Livestock is available [here](#). The content of his guidance is of much concern. Leaders throughout the ag industry are reviewing this situation carefully.

We will continue to update you on developments and changes specific to individual counties.

DPR Issues Pesticide Enforcement Guidance Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

In other concerning news, the Department of Pesticide Regulations issued guidance yesterday to local county agricultural commissioners on expectations around the enforcement of pesticide regulations near schools and homes amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance can be found [here](#).

DPR is directing all commissioners to:

- Strictly enforce all applicable pesticide health protections around homes and schools during the COVID-19 emergency. Pesticide applications are prohibited when there is a reasonable possibility of contamination of people not involved in the pesticide application process.
- Continue to work with schools to understand when children and others are likely to be present at school sites and restrict pesticide applications.
- Take a strict approach to assessing penalties. Violations that occur near homes or schools during the COVID-19 emergency should be considered among the most serious and should carry fines at the top of the range. This could mean fines of up to \$5,000 per person per incident.

Also, DPR is increasing its enforcement oversight to:

- Enhance the transparency of pesticide applications that occur near homes and schools.
- Ensure that CACs prioritize investigations of violations near homes and schools. DPR may refer violations to the Attorney General's Office for prosecution as appropriate.
- Work with community residents to facilitate the reporting of pesticide incidents. The Department will continue to promote use of the California's System for Pesticide Incident Reporting (CASPIR) mobile application for quick and anonymous reporting of pesticide incidents.

In themselves, the directives are not vastly different from what is already in place, but this action does signal an uptick in regulatory oversight and enforcement that is concerning.

The guidance, issued at the [direction of Governor Gavin Newsom](#), clarifies existing legal requirements limiting pesticide use near school sites that continue in operation. While schools are physically closed, many continue to perform critical functions, such as providing on-site meals, homework assignments, and other services.

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