

# MARYLAND PESTICIDE NETWORK

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Dear Health Care Provider:

**WE NEED YOUR HELP—PLEASE REPORT PESTICIDE EXPOSURES!**

Health care providers may fail to recognize symptoms related to pesticide exposures. Studies indicate that certain cancers, Parkinson's disease, asthma and birth defects may be associated with commonly used home and garden pesticides.

We encourage you to inquire about a patient's use of pesticides in their homes and gardens when taking their medical history. These questions are particularly important for groups especially vulnerable to pesticides, such as pregnant and nursing women, young children, asthmatics, the immunocompromised, the elderly and those that may be chemically sensitized.

Our knowledge of pesticide exposures will be greatly improved with reporting of pesticide injuries. If you do suspect an exposure, please report the circumstances to the Maryland Pesticide Network (MPN) using the pesticide injury reporting system. The details for making such a report are included in this kit. MPN will collect the reports and share the data collected through an annual report for health care providers, state agencies and policy makers.

Patient and health care provider identity will be omitted in all reports. MPN's pesticide injury report only requires the patient's initials, year of birth and zip code as identifying markers in order to avoid duplication of reports and to understand the relationship of known pesticide applications and injuries based on zip code data. An example of a Patient Authorization Form giving you permission to provide MPN with a suspected pesticide injury report is included in the kit.

MPN is a coalition of 27 public health, consumer, labor, parent, religious and environmental organizations concerned about pesticide-related health issues, particularly as they impact children.

We hope you find the kit useful and educational. The kit provides information on the hazards of pesticides, including recognition and treatment of a possible exposure. Please post the convenient wall poster entitled "*Reduce Your Risk of Pesticide Exposure*" for your patients. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on our first "edition" of Pesticides and Public Health.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

The Maryland Pesticide Network

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