



PROMOTING HEALTHY SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Tips for Staff/Teachers

Avoid using chemicals. Use only the BPS approved “green” cleaner for small cleaning needs in your classroom. Don't bring in your own bug spray; it's against the law. Use odorless, water-based markers and art supplies. *Personal fragrances and chemicals can be respiratory irritants.*

Do make sure your air vents are working and not blocked with books and supplies. Locate the vents in your room –sometimes under a window. Keep furniture a few feet away from air vents - so air can flow. *Report dirty or noisy vents.*

If you have students with known allergies or asthma you should avoid bringing pets into the classroom. *Pets with fur or feathers have dander which are significant allergic asthma triggers.*

Be aware that plants have spores and their soil can breed mold. *These are allergens.*

Create a “crumb- and spill -free” classroom with an eating and cleaning plan. Store extra food *well*, in a lid tight container. Have a designated “covered” trash can for food garbage. Crumbs and liquids attract pests. *Report any signs of pests in the integrated pest management IPM log.*

Reduce classroom clutter such as paper and old classroom projects you aren't using. They collect dust and harbor pests. *Include students in activities such as clean-ups and recycling to promote school pride and environmental stewardship.*

Report water leaks as soon as they appear. Mold can grow if wet places don't dry within 48 hours. *Your school has a work order system to report and track needed repairs.*

This factsheet was developed by the MassCOSH Healthy Schools Initiative. For more information on managing asthma and improving indoor air quality in your school, contact: MassCOSH, Tolle Graham, tolle.graham@masscosh.org, Al Vega al.vega@masscosh.org