



# Healthy Colorado Schools

## TEST YOUR IPM KNOWLEDGE & WIN A PRIZE!

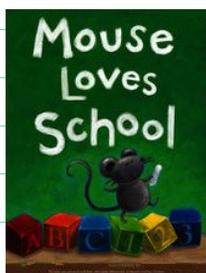
Is your IPM program ready for "Back to School?" Test your IPM knowledge by taking the following quiz. [The first 10 people who submit correct responses by clicking on this link](#) will win an IPM ready kit!

### 1. Which of the following pests have been found in Colorado schools?

- Ants
- Yellowjackets
- Rattlesnakes
- Fox
- Raccoons
- Norway rats
- Mice
- Cockroaches
- Wind scorpions
- Bed bugs
- All of the above

### 2. How long can head lice survive without a human host?

- 48 hours
- One week
- One month
- Nine months



### 3. True or false? It's OK to have a few mice in a school.

### 4. What does MSDS stand for?

- Main Shutoff Delay Schedule
- Must Stay Down Stairs
- Major Stuff Doesn't Stop
- Material Safety Data Sheet

### 5. What is PPE?

- Phone Personnel Emergency
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Public Plumbing Egress
- Partial Physical Education

### 6. Which are the best places to find pests in a school?

- Dumpster
- Teacher's lounge
- Student store
- Home economics room
- All of the above

### 7. You're asked to clean up mouse droppings. What should you do first?

- Put on protective gloves and a mask
- Leave it for the night crew
- Draw a chalk line around it
- Sweep them up in a dust pan

### 8. What should you do with mops and buckets after using?

- Hang them upside down on wall racks
- Store them in water in the

- custodial closet
- Remove heads from handles and place on floor drain

### 9. What is an escutcheon?

- A plate used to bridge the gap between the outside diameter of the pipe and the inside diameter of the opening
- Part of the ear
- The hard drive of a computer
- The verb "to hear" in Spanish

### 10. What methods are used in Integrated Pest Management?

- Excluding pests from buildings
- Cleaning up food spills right away
- Replacing door sweeps
- All of the above

**IPM READY KIT:**  
A portable kit that allows you to identify, monitor and prevent pests from gaining entry to your building. Everyone needs one!

### Special points of interest:

- ✓ Back To School IPM Quiz & Prize
- ✓ School Crews Work To Prevent West Nile
- ✓ CCSIPM Hosts Thomas Cook, EPA Center of Expertise for School IPM
- ✓ Three Things That Aren't So Harmless
- ✓ Does Your School Have A Written IPM Policy?
- ✓ Fun Facts About Rodents

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## SCHOOL GROUNDS CREWS DECREASE THE RISK OF WEST NILE VIRUS

[Fourteen states](#), including [Colorado](#), have reported human cases of West Nile Virus.

Mosquito control efforts are mainly the responsibility of mosquito abatement districts and public health departments. Spray programs have been implemented in several Front Range communities. However, school grounds staff can help control mosquito activity using IPM.

- **Turn over pails and empty planters** or anything that can hold stagnant water. Maintain the water in ornamental ponds and other receptacles that require water to function.

- **Practice good sanitation** around the school as litter and debris in the yard can collect water and enable mosquito breeding.

- **Cover openings for standing water** sources, such as septic tanks, rain barrels, and catch basins with fine mesh screening.

- **Clear gutters.**

- **Fill natural depressions** in landscaping, tree holes and rotten stumps with sand to absorb water retained after rainfall and to conserve water.

- **Drain abandoned pools**

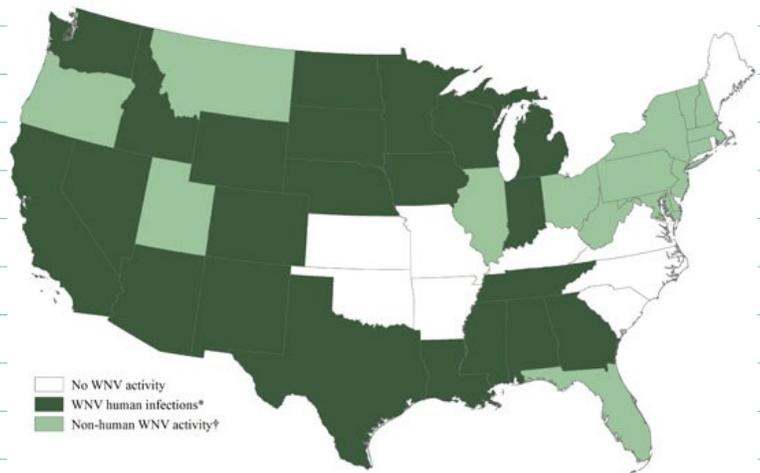
- **Drain water from play sets** by drilling holes in the bottom to help with drainage.

- **Water lawns and gardens** minimally to prevent puddles.

- **Mow tall grass** to reduce shady areas where mosquitoes prefer to rest.



Click here for our latest ccsipm post: [Lessons learned — ants](#)



## DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE A WRITTEN IPM POLICY?

As we begin to expand School IPM and partner with various green school programs, such as [BEST grants](#) and the [Green Ribbon Schools Award](#), the Colorado Coalition for School IPM (CCSIPM), is in the process of writing a policy for school IPM. Do you already have one? Do you have some ideas for what you would like to see included in the template? To share your ideas or to get more information contact [Deb Young](#) or [Greg Hronich](#).

## EPA'S CENTER OF EXPERTISE FOR SCHOOL IPM COMES TO COLORADO



EPA is working to reduce the risk that pest and pesticide exposure poses to children and school employees. It is a national effort to make safe and effective pest management a standard practice in all of our nation's schools. Mr. Thomas Cook is the Lead for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's School IPM Center of Expertise. He will be visiting Colorado on **September 17, 2013. Mark your calendars** – we will be conducting a workshop, hosted by Denver Public Schools, to demonstrate what Colorado schools are doing – and to help more schools implement IPM. Invitations will go out via email the week of August 19th. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact [Deb Young](#) or call 970-491-1377.

## THREE “HARMLESS” THINGS

School is getting ready to start and most of us will spend our days in schools surrounded by students and staff. We are exposed every day to surfaces that are likely to carry infection. While we recognize the importance of washing our hands, we are less picky when we encounter objects that seem beyond the reach of bacteria and viruses. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces is necessary to keep the environment healthy. **Here are three “harmless” things you should really wash your hands after touching.**

### 1. Water Fountain Button

Charles Gerba, professor of microbiology at the University of Arizona, studies microbes in homes and workplaces. In research sponsored by consumer product company Kimberly-Clark Professional and conducted as part of The Healthy Workplace Project, Gerba's team swabbed close to 5,000 surfaces in several office buildings with at least 3,000 employees. Back in the lab, they tested the swabs for the presence of living organisms, an indicator that bacteria, yeast and mold were likely present on

the item tested. Of the water fountain buttons tested by the researchers, 23 percent had scores indicating that they were “filthy” and a little more than half scored “dirty”. Either way, it's a sure sign that the water cooler is a great place to catch some gossip -- and your next cold.

### 2. Communal Pen

Consider carrying your own pen, instead of using the one from the delivery guy or the restaurant waiter. J. Owen Hendley, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Virginia, co-authored a 2006 study investigating the prevalence of rhinoviruses -- the germs responsible for the common cold -- in hotel rooms. Hendley's team asked 15 people with confirmed colds to spend the night in a nearby hotel. After the sniffling, sneezing guests checked out, scientists entered the rooms before the cleaning staff and tested various surfaces for the presence of rhinoviruses. They found virus particles on door handles, TV remotes, light switches, phones, alarm clocks and pens. We can assume that other communal pens -- at banks, grocery stores, day-care centers, restaurants and department stores -- are just as infected.

### 3. Money

Think about the bounty in your wallet – credit cards, folding money, coins, and bacteria. Research conducted in western Ohio (2002) found that 94 percent of \$1 bills contained disease-causing bacteria. Coins carry their fair share of germs, as well, including *E. coli*, klebsiella, salmonella and staphylococcus. Another study in England proved that the problem is universal. Scientists there swabbed the hands, currency and credit cards of 272 people in London, Birmingham and Liverpool, and then tested for the presence of fecal bacteria. The subjects' hands were pretty disgusting, but 8 percent of the swabs from the cards and 6 percent of the swabs from the bills had as much fecal bacteria on them as you would find in a dirty toilet bowl.





The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is an effort by Colorado State University, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Education, school districts, National Environmental Health Association and private pest control professionals.

**For More Information About The Colorado Coalition For School IPM:**

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**For All The Latest News Don't Forget To Check Out Our Website/Blog at:**  
[www.ccsipm.wordpress.com](http://www.ccsipm.wordpress.com)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION & IPM EXAMPLES CHECK OUT THE FLICKR PHOTO SETS — EXAMPLES OF IPM PESTS & METHODS**

**FUN FACTS ABOUT RODENTS**

Dr. Bobby Corrigan was the speaker at the Rodent Academy this month, sponsored by Oregon State University, Washington State University and the IPM Institute. One of the most worrisome pest control jobs he described was eliminating rats from a commercial jetliner. Rodents like to gnaw on wires. And a plane is not exactly a vehicle where you want to have electrical malfunctions en route. After that, eliminating rodents in a school is a piece of cake!

**Here Are The Facts:**

Rodents travel in all directions from their nests every day and easily go from room to room or floor to floor. They leave urine, feces, hair and other contaminants as they go – on everyday items such as sinks, toilets, food counters, chairs, desks and utensils. Daily sanitation, including eliminating as much of the mouse's food and nesting materials as possible, is a key step in managing the house mouse. For the first two weeks, mouse pups are totally dependent on their mother

for survival. If they don't have sufficient food and/or nesting materials, juvenile mortality can be high.

