

Healthy Colorado Schools

NOVEMBER TIP OF THE MONTH: HOUSE MOUSE



With cold weather upon us, there is a possibility of having the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) setup residence in your home. According the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the house mouse is considered one of the most economically important and troublesome pest in Colorado homes. They live and thrive under a wide variety of conditions in and around homes and businesses. House mice will feed on food meant for humans or pets. Not only do they cause gnawing damage on house structures, but they also contaminate our home with their feces (droppings) and urine. House mice may also transmit the bacterium that causes food poisoning (salmonellosis). Adult house mice weigh about ½ ounce and can be from 5 to 7 inches long including the tail. They can be light gray to light brown in color. An integrated pest management approach of house mice involves the use of exclusion, sanitation and population reduction in order to be successful. A great source of information about house mouse management is available at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/cpvector/rodents/zmouse2.html>

Keep Colorado schools pest free

<http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities/index.html>