



Script, Module 5:

“Overview of Pesticide Reporting Requirements in the United States”

Acknowledgement

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Purpose and Learning Objectives

Welcome to “Overview of Pesticide Reporting Requirements in the United States.” This module presents the basics of reporting pesticide exposure and/or related illnesses in all 50 states of the United States. The purpose is to provide health care providers with an accurate and up to date tool to find information on their state’s pesticide reporting requirements. By the end of this module, you should be able to: list the three categories of pesticide reporting requirements, locate reporting requirements in the specific state of practice, and describe the relevance of surveillance data to medical practice.

Basics of Pesticide Reporting

For states and territories that have mandatory or optional reporting, we will cover the basics of who is required to report, what is defined as reportable, when the exposure needs to be reported by, and where it should be reported.

Overview of Pesticide Reporting Categories

First, let’s review the three categories of reporting requirements for health care providers and other entities. These are mandatory reporting, optional reporting and no specific requirement. Currently 64 percent of states and territories have mandatory reporting, 15 percent have optional reporting and 21 percent have no specific requirement to report pesticide.

Some states require reporting pesticide exposures while others report illnesses, and some use the terms poisoning or disease instead. Also, some states specify reporting both known and suspected cases while others do not. Finally, some states require reporting all cases while others focus on occupational cases. Therefore, it is essential for you to obtain information specific to the state of your medical practice. In this module the term “pesticide reporting” is used to comprise all these reporting requirements.

Does My State Require Pesticide Reporting?

Now, let’s explore an interactive national map of these reporting requirements across the U.S. The data presented on each state’s and territory’s requirements is based on the information available as of July 2020 that was obtained, reviewed and quality assurance checked by PERC-med.

- It is important to note that there is considerable variation across the U.S. with respect to who, what, when and where pesticide exposure, poisonings or illnesses are to be reported. For example, in some states only occupational cases are required to be reported. To find the pesticide reporting requirements in your state, click on the state in the national map. Clicking on a specific state will take you to another webpage, within the PERC-med website, that displays a table with pesticide reporting information specific to the state you’ve selected.

Data Table: All States

To view the reporting requirements for all states and territories, you can simply click on the highlighted text that reads “pesticide reporting requirements” above the map on the PERC-med homepage. This will take you to a data table that details the state- and territory-level requirements for the entire country. The table automatically lists states and territories in alphabetical order.

Additionally, the table can be sorted by any of the three columns of information. These columns are the state name, the category of reporting requirements (mandatory, optional or no) and the where and how to report information.

- Note that some states or territories require that physicians, hospitals, labs and other health professionals report, while others may only require physicians and labs to report. This information can be found in the middle column of the table.
- Hyperlinks provided go directly to the reporting website and applicable reporting form when available.

Phone numbers are also provided when available.

Searching for State-Specific Information

You can quickly search for a state or territory by entering it in the search bar in the upper right-hand corner of the table where you see a magnifying glass symbol. Now let’s use the State of Oregon as an example.

For each specific state or territory, it is important to note who should report, what to report, when to report and where to report. Walking through the example of the state of Oregon:

WHO: In Oregon, physicians, hospitals, labs and other health professionals are required to report.

WHAT: Any suspected or confirmed illness or condition related to pesticide

WHEN: Within 24 hours

WHERE: Reports can be submitted to the Oregon Health Authority, Pesticide Exposure Safety and Tracking Program (also known as PEST). In this state example, PEST phone numbers and a link to the reporting website are provided in the table.

Reporting Example: Oregon

Clicking the reporting website will take you to an external link specifying how to report any suspected or confirmed illness or condition related to pesticide in that state. In Oregon, reporting can be done via fax or phone call to PEST.

Why Reporting is Important

We just walked through the who, what, when, and where of pesticide reporting in Oregon. Each state has its own specific requirements. Make sure that you check the requirements for your state.

Pesticide surveillance information is used to inform policy and ideally to prevent future pesticide illnesses. Additionally, it can identify at-risk populations, emerging pesticide issues, and the types of jobs with exposure risks.

In addition to state-specific surveillance data, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, also called NIOSH, administers the Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (or SENSOR)-Pesticides program. SENSOR is a surveillance program that aims to identify occupational pesticide exposures that cause health problems in the workforce. 13 states currently participate in the program with the common goal of protecting workers from over-exposures.

Summary

Thank you for completing this module. You should now know how to find the “who, what, when, and where” of pesticide reporting requirements for your own state and throughout the U.S.

For additional information on PERC-med including educational resources, please email PERC-MedSupport@ucdavis.edu.

Knowledge Check

1. Where can you go to find out about the pesticide reporting requirements in your specific state?
 - a. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - b. PERC-med website

- c. National Institutes of Health (NIH) website
- d. B and C

The correct answer is *b. PERC-med website*.

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