

**BASIS STATEMENT FOR ADOPTION OF  
AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 27 – STANDARDS FOR PESTICIDE  
APPLICATIONS AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION IN SCHOOLS**

BASIS STATEMENT: Chapter 27 of the Board's rules sets standards for pesticide use in schools and provides for notification of students, staff and parents for certain types of applications. In the fall of 2005, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, a life threatening pathogen, was detected in three animals in York County. Since mosquitoes transmit this pathogen, some York County schools sought to conduct mosquito abatement programs around their athletic fields. As a result, it became apparent that the pre-notification requirements in Chapter 27 hinder a very quick response to this type of pest problem.

On January 20, 2006, the Board adopted an interim enforcement policy in response to this concern, which exempted schools from the pre-notification requirement when arthropod borne viruses (arboviruses) are detected in the vicinity.

This proposed amendment to Chapter 27 seeks to incorporate the exemption into the rule. One comment was received opposing the change on the basis that it would discourage the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The Board viewed this as a legitimate point, however it believed that the risks associated with arboviruses were far more significant than the risks associated with mosquito abatement programs. Moreover, the IPM provisions in Chapter 27 remain in effect, even if pre-notification is no longer required. Consequently, the Board adopted the change as originally proposed.