

Guidance for Pest Control Industry during COVID-19 Pandemic

Plant Industry Division



September 18, 2020

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and information made available by [Nevada Health Response](#). The Nevada Department Agriculture (NDA) will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Local agencies may have additional guidance and/or requirements regarding these operations in their jurisdiction.

Recommended Precautions for Pest Control Licensees, Restricted-Use Pesticide (RUP) Certified Applicators and Government Applicators

The pest control industry has been deemed “essential” under [Governor Sisolak’s directives](#), as it relates to protecting public health. Any pest control work must be done with proper preventative measures as provided by the [Nevada Health Response](#). The Department recognizes the critical role of pest control in the agriculture industry, in addition to the health of Nevada communities, which is why it is important that these establishments implement appropriate preventative steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Testing and Certification

Pesticide applicator testing will only be permitted on a limited basis and scheduled to allow for social distancing. Priority will be given to individuals who were scheduled prior to the state office closure. Following this, NDA staff will schedule with companies who contacted NDA with testing requests since March 16, 2020.

Individuals wanting to take exams will be required to review and adhere to the procedures [found here](#). Please note the following adjustment to the number of testers during one session:

- Las Vegas: Only 6 testers will be scheduled at one time in the Las Vegas office unless two proctors are available and both training rooms can be occupied at the same time;
- Elko: Up to 4 people can test in the conference room;
- Sparks: Up to 6 people can test at one time.

The number of sessions at each location are on an “as needed” basis.

Pest Control Re-Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements

There has been no change to the NDA's relicensing requirements or to the number of CEU's needed to renew licenses for the upcoming year. Obtaining the required CEU's is a condition of renewing the license of a company engaging in pest control per NAC 555.372 and exemptions will not be made due to COVID-19.

While some in-person classroom CEU courses have been cancelled due to COVID-19, classes are still permitted and available but must comply with [Governor Sisolak’s directives](#). Some course providers will deliver a private in-house CEU course at your facility for your applicators.

If you are interested in a course that is not available in your area, has been cancelled, or is listed as an in-house course for another company, they may be willing to host an in-house course for your team. Additionally, there are many online CEU Courses available. The NDA list of approved CEU Courses can be found here:

http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/PEST/Continuing_Education_Classes/

RUP Certificate and Government License Renewal

RUP certificates and government licenses can also be renewed by submitting continuing education unit (CEU) applications. Fill out the following applications and mail them, along with payment, to 2300 East St. Louis Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89014:

- [Government license renewal form](#)
- [RUP certificate renewal form](#)

All RUP and government applicators who need to acquire CEU's, can access a list of [approved CEU courses](#) online.

Please visit agri.nv.gov/Pest-Control to access additional information on CEU renewal. For questions or comments, please e-mail Rick Cronkhite at CEU@agri.nv.gov.

Pest Control Companies

Pest control may be performed inside someone's home while adhering to the preventative measures provided by [Nevada Health Response](#). Additional guidance from the NDA is provided below.

Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

The WPS regulation was issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This regulation covers pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural plants on farms, forests, nurseries, and enclosed-space productions (such as marijuana cultivation facilities).

The NDA would like to remind all employers, who fall under the WPS, that they are required to do the following and that the Governor's directives and guidance from the Nevada Health Response must be applied:

- Provide annual pesticide safety training and personal protective equipment to employees;
- Post, at a central location, pesticide application detail records, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and the safety poster which includes the address/telephone number of the nearest medical facility;
- Provide decontamination supplies to employees;
- Provide emergency assistance by making transportation available to a medical care facility in case of a pesticide injury or poisoning;
- Implement restricted-entry intervals (REIs).

Please review additional employer requirements and further information on the [WPS from the EPA](#), or you can contact Bret Allen at (775) 846-1691 or bret.allen@agri.nv.gov.

Pest Control Essential Work Guidance

In addition to normal personal protective equipment and standards, the following should be considered (PLEASE NOTE: PPE standards and pesticide label guidance should always take precedence):

Social distancing

- Require all individuals to maintain at least six feet of space between each other on-premises or on-site.
- When feasible, only allow one pest control operator on-site for treatment at a time.

Cleaning and protecting individual health

- Do not share equipment with other staff. If equipment must be shared, it should be thoroughly disinfected before and after each use.
- Staff should wear [face coverings](#), or masks as applicable by label guidelines, at all times and should refrain from touching the covering.
- Staff should avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Staff should wear disposable gloves when going on-site. When leaving, staff should dispose of gloves and clean hands.
- After conducting on-site pest control, staff should wash hands with warm water and soap, or use an alcohol-based gel.

Monitoring illness

- Monitor staff for signs of illness.
- Anyone experiencing signs of illness should stay home, contact their healthcare provider and follow [CDC-recommended steps](#).
- If anyone becomes sick, the facility should:
 - Notify any locations the individual conducted on-site pest control.
 - Close off areas used by the sick person.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours (or as long as possible) before you clean or disinfect.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared electronic equipment like tablets and computers.
 - Please reference the CDC's [Disinfecting Your Facility If Someone Is Sick](#) for guidance.

Additional Resources

Latest updates related to Nevada agriculture industries during COVID-19 can be found at agri.nv.gov/industry_resources_covid19.