



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 4, 2020

Secretary Jared Blumenfeld
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld,

On March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a statewide emergency to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Given the spread of COVID-19, California's students are largely receiving instruction remotely in their places of residence. Many schools continue to operate programs at school sites, including with children present, such as for meals and to prepare lessons families can pick up. It remains critical for the state to protect children and families from pesticide exposure including through the strong protections California has in place for school sites.

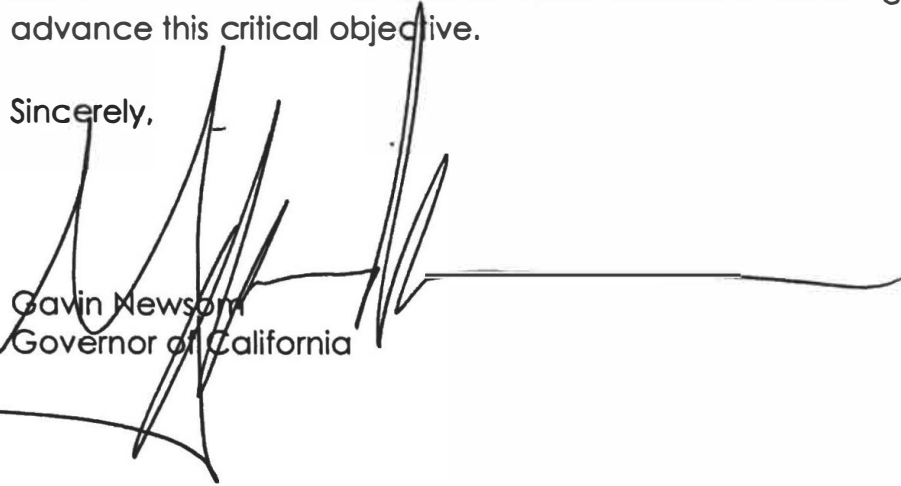
To that end, I am directing the California Environmental Protection Agency to work with the Department of Pesticide Regulation to issue guidance for local County Agricultural Commissioners outlining the State's requirement for strong pesticide regulation enforcement for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. During this public health crisis, it is important to ensure the strict enforcement and oversight of regulations that protect children from pesticide exposure.

It is also critical that the State deepen its resolve to grow our strong, climate smart agricultural economy while lowering community health risks. We must find common ground on these issues and create the space for communities, stakeholders, and all Californians to work together on the intricately connected areas of healthy soils, alternative pest management strategies, agricultural economies, community and worker health and safety, food systems and environmental resource priorities all while transitioning away from harmful chemicals.



As we continue to respond to COVID-19, we must keep the health of California's schoolchildren front and center. I look forward to following your efforts to advance this critical objective.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Governor of California