

Glossary and Acronyms

Disinfectants- One of three groups of antimicrobials registered by EPA for public health concerns. A disinfectant destroys or irreversibly inactivates undesirable (and often infectious) organisms; EPA registers three types of disinfectant products based upon submitted efficacy data: limited, general/broad spectrum, and hospital disinfectant.

Drain Trap - A dip in the drain pipe of sinks, toilets, and floor drains, etc., that is designed to stay filled with water in order to prevent sewer gases from escaping into the room.

Emissions –Releases of pollutants into the air from a source, such as paints, furniture or cleaning agents.

EPA –United States Environmental Protection Agency.

IAQ – Indoor air quality.

IAQ Coordinator – An individual at the school who provides leadership and coordination of IAQ activities.

IAQ Management Plan –A set of flexible and specific steps for preventing and resolving IAQ problems.

IAQ Team –Individuals working directly with the IAQ Coordinator to address IAQ in the school. These individuals may include school staff, administrators, school board members, students and parents.

Indoor Air Pollutant – An indoor contaminant such as particles, dust, fibers, mists, bio-aerosols, and gases.

Indoor Pollutant Sources – Indoor air pollutants can originate within the building or be drawn in from outdoors. Common sources include people, carpets, photocopiers, art supplies, furniture, vehicles, paints, etc.

IPM – Integrated pest Management. A comprehensive approach to eliminating and preventing pest problems with an emphasis on reducing pest habitat and food sources.

Mobile Sources – Motor vehicles, engines, and equipment that move, or can be moved, from place to place. Mobile sources include vehicles that operate on roads and highways, as well as non-road vehicles, engines, and equipment. Examples of mobile sources are cars, trucks, buses, earth-moving equipment, lawn and garden power tools, ships, railroad locomotives, and airplanes.

Outdoor Air Supply – Air brought into a building from the outdoors (often through the ventilation system).

Pollutants (Pollution) – Unwanted chemicals or contaminants found in the environment. Pollutants can harm human health, the environment, and property. Air pollutants occur as gases, liquid droplets, and

solids. Once released into the environment, many pollutants can persist, travel long distances, and move from one environmental medium (e.g., air, water soil) to another.

Preventive Maintenance – Regular and systematic inspection/tune-up, cleaning and replacement of worn parts, materials, and systems. Preventive maintenance helps to prevent parts, material and systems failure by ensuring that parts, materials, and systems are in good working order.

Radon – A colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in almost all soil and rock. Radon migrates through the soil and groundwater and can enter buildings through cracks or other openings in the foundation. Radon can also enter through well water. Exposure to radon can cause lung cancer.

Unit Ventilator - A single fan-coil unit designed to satisfy tempering and ventilation requirements for individual rooms.

Ventilation Air –The total air, which is a combination of the air brought inside from outdoors and the air that is being recirculated within the building. Sometimes, however, used in reference only to the air brought into the system from the outdoors, which this document defines as “outdoor air ventilation”.