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Subject: More Than 70 Percent Could Better Manage Asthma Triggers, EPA Survey Finds

News for Release: Tuesday, May 3, 2005; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); For Information: John Millett, 202-564-4355.

We have released this to this listserv as some of the triggers for asthma can be pests (cockroaches, dust mites, mold) in the school environment can be better managed through school IPM. See <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/pests.html>

More Than 70 Percent Could Better Manage Asthma Triggers, EPA Survey Finds

Washington, D.C., May 3 (World Asthma Day) - In the first national awareness survey on environmental asthma triggers, EPA has found that fewer than 30 percent of people with asthma are taking simple steps to reduce exposure to asthma triggers. Exposure to asthma triggers such as secondhand smoke, **cockroaches, dust mites, mold**, and ozone can cause asthma in young children or set off asthma attacks.

"The more we know about controlling and avoiding asthma triggers, the more we can prevent asthma and asthma attacks," EPA Administrator Steve Johnson said. "That's why EPA is raising awareness and encouraging those with asthma to work with their physicians to identify their asthma triggers and to follow EPA's recommendations to reduce their exposure."

May 3 is World Asthma Day. In addition to announcing the survey findings, today EPA recognized the outstanding asthma health care practices of two leading providers and launched a national asthma awareness media campaign, in partnership with the Ad Council.

EPA presented the first National Environmental Leadership Awards in Asthma Management to Optima Health Plan of Southeastern Virginia and Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics of Kansas City, Mo. These programs represent the leading edge in asthma care by providing their patients with education, resources, and services for managing environmental asthma triggers.

To educate parents of children with asthma, EPA, in partnership with the Ad Council, is also releasing a new public awareness media campaign, describing simple steps parents can take to reduce asthma triggers commonly found in homes, daycares, and schools. The new television, radio, newspaper and outdoor public service announcements (PSAs) are the third phase of the Childhood Asthma campaign, launched in March of 2001. The PSAs highlight sources of environmental asthma triggers and simple steps parents can take to reduce their children's exposure. **The new PSAs encourage parents to call 1-866-NOATTACKS or visit <http://www.noattacks.org>** for more information on preventing asthma attacks. The PSAs are available in English and Spanish and will be distributed to media outlets nationwide.

Also, today EPA announced the release of their Asthma Research Results Highlights Report that summarizes accomplishments in asthma research over the last five years and outlines future directions in asthma research. Asthma research by EPA and collaborators on the causes and triggers of the disease and best practices for management of the disease

is providing critical science information to address this growing public health threat.

Of the approximately 20 million Americans with asthma, more than six million are children. The disease remains one of the leading causes of emergency room visits and school absenteeism for children. Although there is no known cure for asthma, there are ways to reduce the number of attacks, including avoiding exposure to environmental asthma triggers at home, school and other places where children spend their time.

Visit EPA's Web site <http://www.epa.gov/asthma> to find fact sheets, brochures, children's activity books, and educational videos with information about asthma triggers and lessons on asthma management. Parents and caregivers can call the No Attacks hotline at 1-866-NOATTACKS (1-866-662-8822) or visit <http://www.noattacks.org> for additional information on how to prevent asthma attacks. For more information on EPA's Asthma Research Results Highlights Report visit <http://www.epa.gov/ord/asthma> .

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