



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

Dear Health Practitioner,

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) under a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), is currently conducting an investigation on the public health concerns associated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the Riverside Agricultural Park (“Ag Park”), located near Jurupa Avenue and Rutland Avenue in Riverside, CA. Residents in the Ag Park area have requested our assistance in providing their doctors with information about exposure to PCBs. This “Patient Information Package” is meant to give the community member and their health care provider information about PCBs and additional resources.

Community members who live near the Ag Park have voiced many concerns about health effects, including death, cancer, birth defects, skin rashes, skin lesions, asthma, autoimmune-disorders and others, from potential exposures to PCBs and other chemicals. We understand the difficulty in attributing environmental exposures to specific disease instances or non-specific symptoms and **want to make you aware of online training courses available by the Centers for Disease Control and Health Promotion (CDC) aimed to help you better respond to your patients’ PCB concerns environmental exposures, and evaluating your patient’s environmental health concerns.** See Appendix A for a list of courses. These courses are accredited for continuing education credits. If you would like to refer your patient to an environmental health specialist, please contact the UC Irvine Center for Occupational and Environmental Health Clinic at (949) 824-8685.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, our work at Ag Park, your patient’s possible exposure(s), or the ATSDR courses, please call me at (510) 620-3610 or email at: Gabriele.Windgasse@cdph.ca.gov. You can also call Nancy Villaseñor, our health educator, at (510) 620-5845 or email at: Nancy.Villasenor@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabriele Windgasse, DrPH
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Appendix A **CDC Training Courses**

Case Studies: PCB Toxicity. This course provides information that may assist you in addressing the health concerns of your patients from the Ag Park area. The course is offered free of charge by ATSDR and continuing education credits are available. To learn more about this course go to:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=30&po=0>

Case Studies: Taking an Exposure History. This course is designed to increase the health care provider's knowledge of hazardous substances in the environment and to promote the adoption of medical practices that aid in the evaluation and care of potentially exposed patients. An Exposure History form (to become part of your patient's medical record) is also available, and can be downloaded as part of the course. To find out more about this course go to:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=33&po=0>

Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit Training Module. This course provides guidance for pediatric patients and their parents or guardians. It can be found at:
http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/emes/health_professionals/pediatrics.html