APPLETREE COVID-19 Supplemental Awards
Kentucky Department for Public Health

Introduction
In early 2021, ASTHO, with support from CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), announced awards to five state health agencies to support their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. State health agencies in Kentucky, Virginia, Arkansas, Vermont, and Indiana were selected for this opportunity because of their recent application to ATSDR’s Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement program. Vermont requested that ASTHO work directly with their partner organization, Informed Green Solutions (IGS), for this project. ASTHO is providing funding and assistance to the recipient state health agencies and state health agency partners to support their environmental health-related COVID-19 response activities. This factsheet outlines activities supported under these awards for the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH).

Supported Activities – Kentucky Department for Public Health
The Kentucky Department for Public Health’s Division of Public Health Protection and Safety will conduct a variety of proposed activities as part of this funding award aimed at providing guidance and technical assistance to K-12 schools on safe disinfection practices. Activities supported through this award include the following:

- Developing and implementing a plan with K-12 schools, environmental stakeholders, and decision-makers to provide coordinated outreach and communication to school professionals on safe disinfection practices in schools.
- Creating a tool for assessing K-12 schools’ needs, barriers, and challenges related to safe disinfection practices and other COVID-19 mitigation measures. KDPH will also develop a process for K-12 schools to request environmental assessments to help customize their mitigation measures to their specific needs.
- Developing guidance and educational materials for K-12 schools on the topics of safe disinfection practices, safe re-entry practices for closed facilities, and capacity building for future preparedness and emergency response planning and activities. KDPH will collaborate with existing partners, such as the Kentucky Department of Education, and develop new partnerships to help facilitate the sharing and development of these educational materials and trainings for K-12 schools.
- Continuing to assist and educate K-12 schools on other COVID-19 mitigation measures that are protective of both the environment and public health as needed.
- Reviewing and adapting KDPH guidance for chemical and radiological emergencies with COVID-19 considerations.