

Ethylene Oxide from Commercial Sterilizers and Risk in Communities



Translation

This evening's session will offer live interpretation through zoom online audio.

- To access the audio interpretation services, click the globe or interpretation button. Then select your language of choice, English, Spanish, or Chinese Simplified.
- **La sesión de esta noche ofrecerá interpretación en vivo a través de audio zoom en línea. Para acceder a los servicios de interpretación de audio, haga clic en el botón de globo o interpretación. Luego seleccione su idioma preferido inglés, español o chino simplificado.**
- 今晚的会议将通过 **Zoom** 在线音频提供现场口译。想要使用音频口译服务，请单击地球图标或“口译”按钮。然后选择所需语言：英语、西班牙语或简体中文。

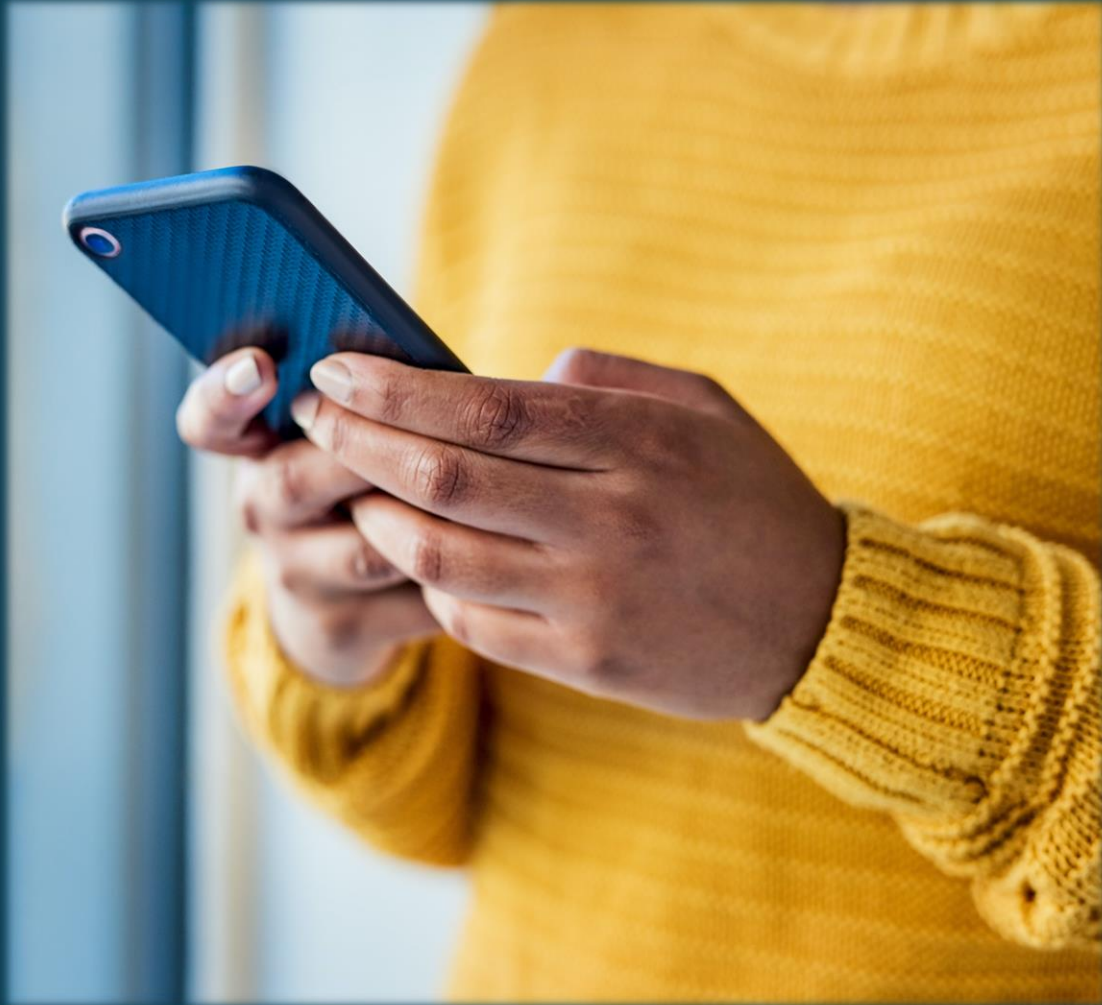
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Ethylene Oxide from Commercial Sterilizers and Risk in Communities



Use the Q and A module to ask questions or ask for technical help.

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Why we are here tonight

- 1** Pollution is increasing health risks in some American communities.
- 2** We are working to reduce this risk.
- 3** We want to hear from you.



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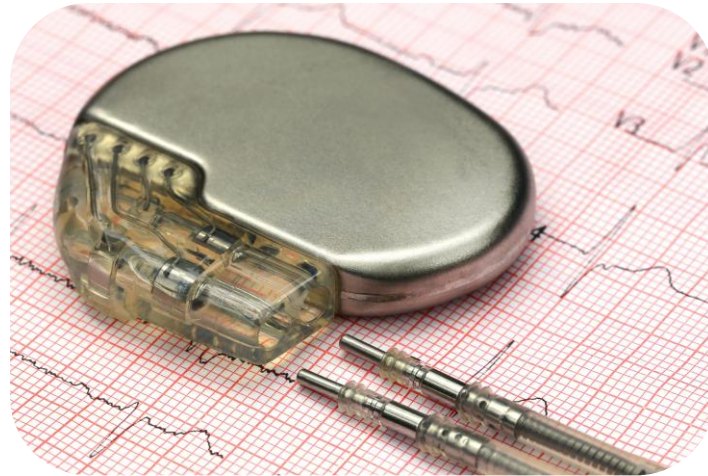
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What is Ethylene Oxide?

- **Gas**
- **Colorless**
- **Flammable**
- **Odorless**
(in concentrations we see in communities)



EtO Uses

- Sterilizes
- Makes Other Products



Current knowledge suggests these risks are not a concern

No indication of risk:

- From soil or water
- Acute or emergency health impacts
- From consumer use of products made with or sterilized with EtO



Over your lifetime

Breathing in EtO over
many years can cause
breast cancer and lymph
cancer.



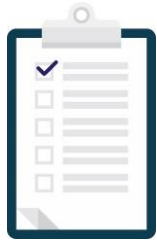
Special Considerations about Risk



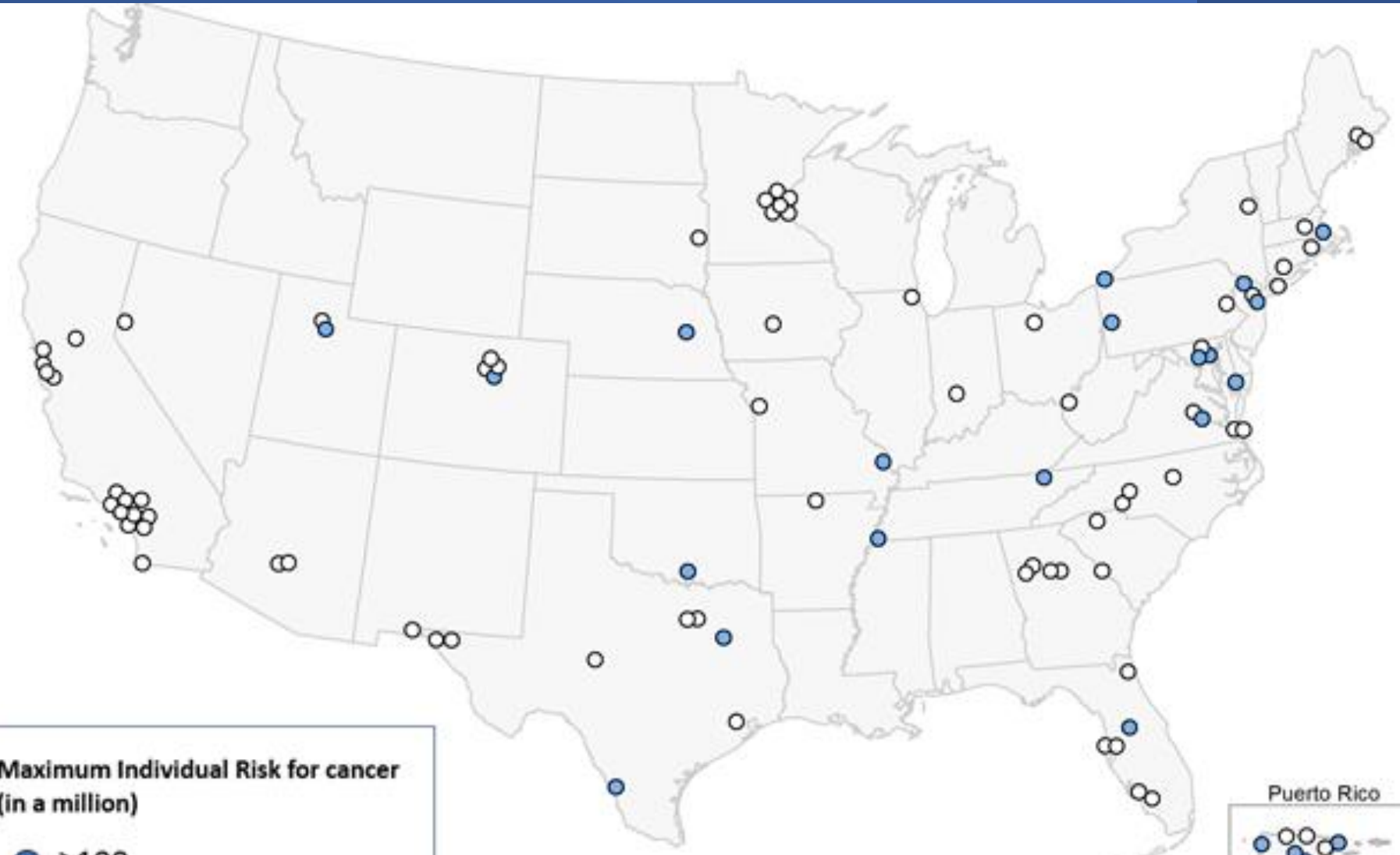
Workers may be exposed at higher levels.



Children and babies may be at higher risk.

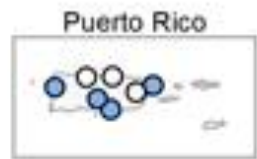


This risk assessment and the rule it supports are focused on community risk not worker risk.



**Maximum Individual Risk for cancer
(in a million)**

- ≥ 100
- < 100



Understanding Risk

How close?

How much?

How long?



- Use Q and A Module to type a question.



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**Reducing EtO coming
out of facility is
the best way
to reduce risk.**



Details about this analysis

- EtO Uses
- Facility Processes
- Facility Equipment
- Community Details
- Weather

Analysis

**Mapped
Location of Risk
Caused by EtO
from a Facility**

- Use Q and A Module to type a question.





Recent Steps Taken to Learn about Risk and Reduce It:


- July 2022: Complete analysis showing where, in which specific communities, risk is highest for people who live nearby.
- Continue to seek more immediate reductions of EtO coming out of facilities.

Previous work:

- 2016: Learn EtO is more dangerous when people breathe it in.
- 2018: Initial analysis showing that EtO might be causing risk near certain types of facilities.
- 2020-2022: Collect and verify data and complete analysis to understand more exactly where there is risk and why.

Timeline

- New air pollution regulation to be proposed this year.
- Public comment period.
- Final rule is expected in 2023.
- Once the rule is final, facilities must comply within 3 years.



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Timeline (continued)

Additional actions this year on EtO:

- New risk information for workers at EtO facilities and people who work or attend school nearby
- Proposed changes to EtO use inside facilities expected in 2022
- Public comment period.
- Once changes are final, it typically takes several years for changes to take effect
- Learn more about EPA's review of EtO use as a pesticide: <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/ethylene-oxide-eto>

Key Points



EPA has learned that EtO is causing health risk in some American communities.

We are working to reduce this risk by:

1. Working across government and industry to reduce EtO coming from sterilization facilities.
2. We are updating air pollution regulations to be more protective of your health.
3. We are sharing these risk results with you, so you have the same information we have.

- Use Q and A Module to type a question.



How to find this information

Start with this url:

<https://www.epa.gov/eto>



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- Use Q and A Module to type a question.



Next Steps



- New protections to be proposed by the end of the year.
- Go to <https://www.epa.gov/eto> to learn more and to sign up to receive updates.