Disinfectants used against germs and bacteria are considered antimicrobial pesticides. The EPA recently announced it is rushing its review of claims relating to the effectiveness of a registered disinfectant against viral pathogens like coronavirus. Once such claims are approved, these disinfectants can be labeled and sold accordingly.

There is a high level of concern that companies will attempt to sell and distribute disinfectant products making false and/or illegal pesticidal claims about coronavirus (COVID-19). Pesticides violate federal law when they are unregistered, or are marked with claims that differ from their registration. These products can be harmful to human health, cause adverse effects, and may not be effective against the spread of germs.

When purchasing a product, check if its EPA registration number is included on this list:

www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

You can find the number on the product label – just look for the EPA Reg. No. These products may be marketed under different brand names, but if they have the same EPA registration number, they are the same product.

In coordination with the EPA, the Pesticide Control Office monitors for compliance with federal registration requirements. Monitoring occurs through routine inspections of marketplaces and distributors, as well as following up on consumer tips and complaints.

If you have a question regarding a disinfectant’s registration, please visit us on the web at www.GRICDEQ.org or contact the Pesticide Control Office at (520)562-2234