

7:104 Student Welfare - Bed Bug Policy (Cimex Lectularius)

Bed bugs (*Cimex Lectularius*) are small, flat, parasitic insects that feed solely on the blood of people and animals. They are reddish-brown in color, wingless and range from 1mm to 7mm. Their presence is not determined by the cleanliness of the living conditions where they are found. Although bed bugs are not considered a medical or public health hazard, their presence in the home may cause itching, skin infections and loss of sleep. Bed bugs are difficult and expensive to eradicate. Bed bugs that hitch a ride to school in one student's backpack or clothing could be carried home by another student making the school a potential hub for bed bug spread.

The following containment procedure will be followed if a suspected bed bug is found on a student or in a student's possessions.

1. Staff will discreetly remove the student from the classroom.
2. School personnel should examine clothes, belongings, the student's locker and locker contents for the presence of bed bugs and attempt to collect a specimen for confirmatory identification.
3. School personnel will notify the student's parents.
4. School personnel will follow one or a combination of the following procedures to contain spread:
 - The student will change into temporary clothes while his/her clothes are tumbled in the dryer on high heat for 30 minutes.
 - The student will change into his/her own clothes that have been provided by the family and have been laundered at school in hot water and dried on high heat.
5. School personnel will place student belongings into the dryer on high heat for 30 min or secure items in a plastic bag and close tightly. The plastic bag should be placed inside a closed tub/box for the remainder of the school day or until the student needs them.
6. Continue this process daily for 14 days or until no evidence (bed bug bites, live bed bugs, or droppings) of bed bugs remains.
7. Students should limit the items they bring to school.
8. A bed bug inspection report and education materials will be sent home with the student. Parents should inspect or have a pest management professional inspect the home and then return the completed notification letter.
9. If evidence of a bed bug infestation is confirmed, the principal will promote rapid response by urging parents to treat the infested home and provide educational materials and guidance if assistance is necessary.
10. If instances are repeated, assistance from appropriate outside agencies can be enlisted.

The following procedure will be followed if a bed bug was found in the classroom.

1. Remove students from the classroom
2. Contact a pest management professional to do an inspection.
3. If there is evidence of an infestation, follow the recommended treatment plan and notify staff and parents of the findings and treatment.
4. If there is no evidence of an infestation maintain vigilance.

Communication with staff and families

Notification of staff and families will be on a case by case basis and determined by the administration and nurses. Care should be taken to maintain student privacy in isolated cases and to prevent bed bug hysteria. Notification, when it occurs, should go to the entire district making families aware that bed bugs have been found within the district. If a school infestation occurs, families will always be notified.

Board Approved 07/18/24