

BENSALEM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

DOROTHY D. CALL ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

3000 DONALLEN DRIVE BENSALEM, PA 19020

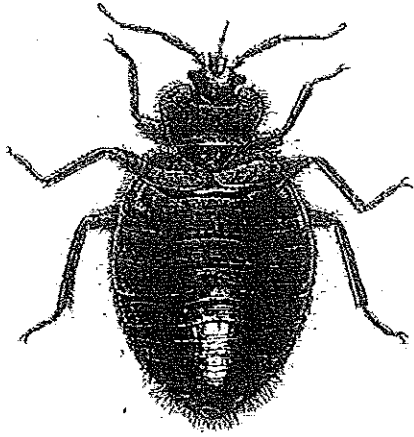
Bed Bug Procedure

Health Services

10/9/2014

If a student is suspected of having bed bugs the nurse will assess the student for bites. If the nurse finds bites, the following procedures may take place:

- The school nurse will call parent/guardian regarding possible bed bugs and provide education.
- Check if student has siblings within the district and notify the nurse at those schools
- The child will not be excluded from school unless there is an active infestation on their clothing, coat, school bags etc.
- The student will empty their bags and materials that are going to class such as folder, books, etc. which will be checked by to make sure they have no bugs in them.
- Student 's school bag and jacket can be placed in the trash bag and picked up at the end of the day
- This will continue until the student has no new bites.
- The nurse will make custodian aware in order for thorough cleaning to be completed



Guidelines for dealing with Bed Bugs in a School Setting

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Introduction

Actual bed bug infestations in schools are uncommon, more often a few bed bugs will hitchhike from an infested home on a student's possessions. On the occasion that an infestation starts, it will be because bed bugs have found a site where people rest or sit for a time. A common example of this is with the younger grades, or pre-school, where rest time or nap time still occurs.

It is important to remain vigilant for bed bugs in the school. Treating a bed bug infestation is difficult and costly. The sooner an infestation is detected the easier it will be to control the infestation. In addition, there are steps that can be taken to prevent future infestations.

Responding to Students with Bed Bugs

The most common way for bed bugs to enter a school is through "hitchhiking" from an infested site. Usually this will be from a student, staff or teacher's home which has a bed bug infestation. While teachers and staff can be more easily addressed dealing with students or parents can be challenging, especially if the family cannot afford proper control measures or their landlord refuses to properly treat their home.

Students dealing with a bed bug infestation in their home may show signs of bites. Different people react differently to bed bug bites, some people do not react at all and others have severe allergic reactions. Depending on the student's immune response to bed bug bites and the severity of the infestation there may be a few or many welts on the face, torso and limbs. Bed Bugs tend to bite on skin that is exposed during sleep or rest. The visible marks and itchiness may make the student very uncomfortable. Students may also display anxiousness and/or sleepiness due to interrupted sleep as a result of bed bugs biting them.

Bed bugs are not associated with uncleanliness or socioeconomic status, but this insect has a substantial social stigma.

Steps that can be taken if a student's home is known to have a bed bug infestation:

- Do not send a child home from school if they are known or suspected to have a bed bug infestation at home. Missed school days have a negative impact on children and it can take many weeks to control a bed bug infestation.
- Provide the student with educational materials they can take home with them (factsheets are available at www.bedbugs.umn.edu)
 - Send a letter to the student's parent or guardian requesting that they take steps to reduce the risk of bed bugs being transported to school. A sample letter is available at www.bedbugs.umn.edu/public-facilities/bed-bugs-in-school
- Consider sending a letter home with all children in the affected classroom.
- If bed bugs have been found on a student's belongings there are three ways to discreetly handle this:
 - Provide the student with plastic bags or a plastic bin in which to store their belongings while they are at school
 - Isolate the student's belongings
 - Reduce the number of items that the student has to transport between school and home.
- In a discreet manner, regularly inspect the student's desk and or locker for bed bugs.
- In the younger grades you may want to consider regular use of plastic tote boxes for storage of student belongings
- Avoid accumulation of clothes, shoes and boots in the classroom.

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