

Stafford Township Board of Education Regulation

PUPILS

R5310.02
HEALTH SERVICES

R 5310.02 BED BUG MANAGEMENT

Although bed bugs are becoming a common problem that significantly impacts our general quality of life, they are not known to transmit disease. The home of any person can be infested by bed bugs, regardless of ethnic background, type of home or socio-economic status. As this problem escalates, although rare, bed bugs may become an issue in our schools. It is important that if this happens, the school takes proactive actions to prevent infestation and stop them from spreading with the school setting. The following are GUIDELINES that have been gathered and organized from public health agencies and academic institutions throughout the United States.

What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are small insects that feed on people while they sleep. Bed bugs do not live on a person. Bed bugs usually hide during the day and come out to feed during the night. Adult bed bugs have flat, rusty-red-colored oval bodies, are about the size of an apple seed, big enough to be easily seen, but often hide in cracks in furniture, floors, or walls.

A bed bug bite may develop into an itchy welt that is similar to a mosquito bite. Bed bug bites do not transmit disease but their bites are a nuisance and can cause significant itchiness, secondary infections, anxiety and sleeplessness. Infestations are also very difficult and expensive to control. They can also be transmitted from one location to another in backpacks, clothing, luggage, books and other items. Bed bugs are rarely transported into a house by pets.

Do you think your classroom is infested with bed bugs?

Actual bed bug infestations in schools are uncommon and it is necessary that the bug be identified as a bed bug, which should be done by a pest management professional, licensed by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It is possible that a few bed bugs could get into a school from an infested home by hiding in a student's clothing or backpack. These bed bugs could be carried home by another student. This can be a major concern to the school – bed bugs are very difficult and expensive to eradicate.

If students are getting bitten or bed bugs are discovered, then a NJDEP licensed pest control applicator should be contacted for assistance in identifying and

Stafford Township Board of Education Regulation

PUPILS

R5310.02
HEALTH SERVICES

eradicating bed bugs. By law (NJSA 13:15-19, NJAC7:30-13), public schools in Ocean County must have an integrated pest management (IPM) plan in place. (see related information attached). This will assist all schools greatly in controlling any type of bug infestation, including bed bugs.

What you should do or NOT do to eliminate bed bugs from your classroom.

- DO NOT allow staff that is untrained to identify bugs and apply pesticides on school property. Contact an integrated pest management company as soon as possible. The law states that only professionally trained and licensed applicators can apply pesticides (even ready-to-use products like sprays) in schools and in compliance with the school's integrated pest management plan.
- Any backpacks, lunchboxes, and other items that go back and forth to school can also be inspected daily and sealed in plastic containers to prevent bed bugs from getting into them.
- Hard surfaces can be cleaned with standard cleaning products.
- If bed bugs have been found repeatedly in a particular classroom, have the room inspected by a pest management professional and other trained staff.

What if you find a bed bug on a student?

If you find a bed bug on a student, this may be an indication that the student has bed bugs in his/her home. **DON'T PANIC.** Remember, people do not become infested with bed bugs, bed bugs feed on people. Bed bugs can crawl on or off a person or their belongings at any time. School districts might want to consider some of the following procedures for adoption in your individual school policy, which could guide actions if a suspected bed bug is found.

- It is important to treat each child with discretion, dignity and respect when dealing with this issue. Any bugs noticed should be removed and collected for identification after removing the child discreetly from the classroom. Try to keep the specimens as intact as possible.
- If a confirmed bed bug was found on the student, the school principal or nurse should contact the student's parents or guardian to inform them of the bed bugs presence on their child. Educational materials should be provided to the family.

Stafford Township Board of Education Regulation

PUPILS

R5310.02
HEALTH SERVICES

- A thorough inspection by the school district's contracted professional pest management company should be done to identify affected areas.
- The school principal or nurse must notify the affected class or classes. Please see the sample notification letter at the end of the document.
- The school principal or nurse must make all appropriate determinations, especially removal of students/excluding students from school and may deny bus transportation as necessary.
- The school's licensed pesticide applicator should be contacted to address bed bugs or any pest infestation issue by the Director of Facilities.
- Director of Facilities will notify the school custodial staff to vacuum the affected area during the end of the day cleaning routine. Place that vacuum bag into a plastic bag/garbage bag and tightly seal for disposal (or for bagless vacuums, empty contents of vacuum into a plastic bag/garbage bag and tightly seal for disposal. Clean the vacuum.
- Ongoing pest management that includes the use of pesticides indoors should be overseen by the Director of Facilities and be performed by a NJDEP licensed pesticide applicator and must conform to the school's integrated pest management plan.

What if one of my students has a bed bug infestation in his/her home?

It is extremely important to be sensitive to a student's problem if he or she is dealing with a bed bug infestation at home. Although bed bugs have nothing to do with the cleanliness or socio-economic status, there is certainly a stigma that may come with having bed bugs at home. Parents may be embarrassed and hesitant to admit having bed bugs and students may also be embarrassed and not want others to know. Students may come into school tired, anxious or afraid because of this problem. Discretion in counseling students is strongly recommended.

Schools should work sensitively with parents of any student living in an infested home to develop strategies for preventing the further spread of bed bugs.

Keep in mind that any pesticide product without an EPA registration number has not been reviewed by EPA, so it has not been determined how well the product works.

Stafford Township Board of Education Regulation

PUPILS

R5310.02
HEALTH SERVICES

All pesticide use should be conducted by a NJ Department of Environmental Protection licensed company or individual.

Integrated Pest Management

The current national problem with bed bugs is likely due to the convergence of three human behaviors: lack of awareness of the historical and biological link humans have with bed bugs, increased international travel, and past over-reliance on pesticides. Bed bugs are a “nest parasite” that resides in the human nest – the bedroom. Over time, bed bugs have evolved to develop resistance to many of the chemical pesticides currently used. In fact, bed bugs were widely resistant to DDT by the mid-1950s.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with people and the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Bed bug control is most effective when an IPM approach is implemented with diligent participation by the residents. In multi-family housing, diligent participation is also required of the building management. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options, including the judicious use of pesticides. Although bed bugs may sometimes be controlled by non-chemical means alone, this approach is often very difficult, potentially less effective, and usually more resource intensive. A comprehensive IPM program to control bed bugs may include a number of methods such as:

- Using monitor devices
- Applying heat treatment
- Sealing cracks and crevices to remove hiding places
- Using non-chemical pesticides (such as diatomaceous earth) and judicious use of effective chemical pesticides
- Inspecting infested areas, plus surrounding living spaces
- Checking for bed bugs on luggage and clothes when returning home from a trip
- Looking for bed bugs or signs of infestation on secondhand items before bringing the items home
- Correctly identifying the pest

Stafford Township Board of Education Regulation

PUPILS

R5310.02
HEALTH SERVICES

- Keeping records – including dates when and locations where pests are found
- Cleaning all items within a bed bug infested living area
- Reducing clutter where bed bugs can hide
- Eliminating bed bug habitats
- Physically removing bed bugs through cleaning and vacuuming and disposing of vacuum bag
- Using pesticides carefully according to the label directions
- Follow up inspections and possible treatments
- Raising awareness through education on prevention of bed bugs

Adopted: 15 October 2015