

209.3-AR-2. Guidance for Response/Control of Bed Bugs in School

Bed bugs are brought into buildings on peoples' belongings. Students, staff, faculty – anyone – can bring bed bugs to school. The key is to educate everyone as much as possible to stop bed bugs at their source - 99% of the time it is the home. The American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of School Nurses, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control do not support exclusion of students from school for bed bugs. The following guidelines are based on evidence-based practices and research from these sources.

When a student(s) is suspected or discovered with bed bugs:

- Discretely take the student(s) to the school nurse or designee to inspect their clothing and belongings.
- If bed bugs are found on the student's belongings, inspect any other belongings that were near their belongings.
- Have the child change into temporary clothing and place all their clothes (including shoes) in the dryer set on high for 30 minutes. If there is no dryer available, isolate the student's clothing and belongings in tight-sealing containers or plastic bags.
- Contact the parent(s)/guardian(s), notify them of the bed bug discovery, and educate them on treatment.
- Notify the head custodian, who will contact the Director of Building and Grounds.
- After the clothes are heat treated, have the student change back into their clothes and return to class. If there is no dryer, student(s) returns to class wearing temporary clothes.

When a bed bug is found in a classroom:

- Identify the exact location where the bed bugs were found and isolate that location.
- Call the Director of Building and Grounds immediately, who will contact the pest control company.
- If possible, capture at least one bug and save it in a plastic bag for positive identification.
- Follow the recommendation and guidance of the pest control company.

