

Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, Principal  
Mr. Andrew Anderson, Vice Principal  
Mrs. Stephanie Allen, Assistant Principal/AD

Main: (618) 942-6606  
Fax: (618) 942-7562

# Herrin High School

700 North Tenth Street

## PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION

### Precautionary Notice Regarding Chromebook Carrying Bags

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are contacting you as a precaution regarding Chromebook carrying bags that were stored at the school over the summer.

**During the preparation of the Chromebook carrying bags for distribution, one dead insect suspected of possibly being a bed bug was found in one empty Chromebook bag.** The insect has not been confirmed to be a bed bug.

**At this time, we do not have evidence of a bed bug infestation at the school or evidence that other Chromebook bags contain bed bugs.** We believe in open communication with our families. That is why we are sharing this information.

The school is taking precautionary measures, including evaluating the remaining Chromebook bags and the area where they were stored.

If your child received a Chromebook carrying bag, we recommend that you inspect the bag, paying particular attention to seams, pockets, folds, and zipper areas. If you find an insect that you believe may be a bed bug, please contact the school.

Please do not apply pesticides or insecticides to the Chromebook bag or Chromebook.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, schools can occasionally have bed bugs or other insects brought into the building on belongings. Even when a bed bug is confirmed on an item, it does not necessarily mean that the school or a household has an infestation.

We appreciate your cooperation as we take these precautionary steps. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the school at 618-942-6606.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Johnson, Ed.D.  
Principal, Herrin High School

Shelly Bateman, BSN, IL-CSN  
District Nurse Herrin CUSD # 4

*Reference: Illinois Department of Public Health - Bed Bugs in Schools and Day Care Centers*



# BED BUG PRECAUTIONS FOR PARENTS

## Instructions for Washing & Drying School Items

Following these steps can help kill bed bugs and their eggs on items that can be laundered and dried.

1



### REMOVE ITEMS

Remove the Chromebook and all other items from the carrying bag.

*Do NOT wash or dry the Chromebook.*

2



### DRY FIRST ON HIGH HEAT

Place the EMPTY carrying bag in a clothes dryer on HIGH heat for at least 20 minutes to kill all stages of bed bugs (eggs, nymphs, and adults).

*Do not wash before drying. Heat is what kills bed bugs.*

3



### WASH

After drying, wash the bag according to the manufacturer's care instructions.

*Washing alone may not kill bed bugs.*

4



### DRY AGAIN

Dry the bag again on HIGH heat according to the manufacturer's instructions.

*Ensure the bag is completely dry.*

5



### STORE SAFELY

Place the clean, dry bag in a clean plastic bag or container until it is ready to be used.

### IMPORTANT TIPS

- ✓ Only items that can be washed and dried on high heat should be treated this way.
- ✓ Heat treatment is an effective way to kill bed bugs and their eggs.
- ✓ Do not use pesticides, insecticides, or household bug sprays on the bag or Chromebook.
- ✓ If you find an insect you believe may be a bed bug, place it in a sealed plastic bag or container and contact the school.



Even if a bed bug is found on an item, it does NOT necessarily mean there is a bed bug infestation in your home or at school.

IDPH recommends taking these precautionary steps to prevent the spread of bed bugs.



### DO NOT:

- Spray any chemicals or pesticides on the bag or Chromebook.
- Put the Chromebook in the washer or dryer.
- Put any item in the dryer unless the care label allows high heat.

**High heat is effective.  
Chemicals are not recommended.**