

INTRODUCTION

Bed bugs, while having the potential to harbor pathogens in their bodies, are not known to transmit diseases to humans and are not regarded as a medical threat. Therefore, they are not covered under Medical conditions which may pose a threat in the school environment.

Our policy for <u>Contagious Diseases and Parasites</u> provides exclusion guidelines from school based on medical conditions, infections, and communicable diseases or conditions as defined by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The Cabinet and the Department of Public Health have not issued any state mandates or policies identifying bed bugs as a public health hazard and have no policies in place recommending exclusion or notification if bed bugs are present in the student's home. Therefore, students who may have bed bug bites, or whose homes may have bed bugs, shall not be excluded from regular school attendance.

Procedures for school personnel are addressed below. Communication should include parents/family, teachers/staff, transportation, student services, FRYSC, and/or custodial staff.

TRIMBLE CO. PUBLIC SCHOOLS BED BUGS PROCEDURES

- Each school will be provided with information regarding bed bugs. Additional information about prevention will be shared with the school community as necessary.
- 2. Upon the discovery of a suspected live bed bug in a facility, any school personnel should attempt to capture the insect on a piece of tape and put it into a zip lock bag. Please tape the bag shut and contact the School Nurse.
- 3. The School Nurse will notify the building principal and district health coordinator.
- 4. If the bug is found on or within a student's belongings, the School Nurse will contact the student's family to inform them. They will also share informational literature as needed.
- The building principal will notify the lead custodian at the school. 6.
 Appropriate cleaning utilizing a vacuum will occur in areas where bugs have been found.
- 6. At the discretion of the School Nurse or school personnel the student's clothing may be changed, or the parent may come to pick the child up.
- 7. The student's belongings may be placed in a plastic bag and secured away from other students' belongings until the end of the school day.
- 8. Once confirmed, the Principal or designee in cooperation with the lead custodian will conduct (or have conducted) a thorough inspection of the facility and recommendations will be made as to the course of action.
- 9. The School Nurse or designated school personnel will perform a visual screening of the student's outer clothing upon returning to school. If any bugs are seen upon the visual screen the student will be asked to change into clothing provided by the school and the student's clothing will be placed in a zip lock bag and returned home with the student at the end of the school day. FRYSC may need



- to be contacted for the initial change of clothing.
- 10. Any items brought from home to be kept in a locker will be bagged and sealed while in the building until the student presents without live bugs. Surrounding lockers of a student with a long-term problem with bed-bugs can be checked periodically for infestation.
- 11. Students experiencing infestation in their homes may continue to ride the bus. They may have assigned seats. Depending on the severity of the case, drivers may clean the seats, flooring, and walls after the students vacate the bus with approved cleaners.
- 12. The student's belongings will be secured away from the other students' belongings until there is no longer a concern of bugs coming into the school building.
- 13. Families are expected to inform the school when the residence is free of bed bugs.
- 14. Meetings may occur with the Principal, FRC/YSC Coordinator, School Nurse, Counselor, and other student support team members to identify and support the needs of the family during the period of de-infestation.

All attempts will be made to keep the identity of the involved student and classroom in confidence and to preserve the student's emotional and physical health during the time of identification and remediation of the bed bug concern.