

Policy

BEDBUG IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION

Consistent with the provisions of the School Integrated Pest Management Act of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 13:1F-19 through -33), the Alloway Township School District believes that the management of infestations of bed bugs should not disrupt the educational process. No disease is associated with bed bugs, and in school transmission is considered to be rare.

The school nurse shall facilitate an accurate assessment of the problem, contain infestation, provide appropriate health information for treatment and prevention, prevent overexposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absence.

In cases that involve bed bugs, as in all school health issues, it is imperative that the school district and its employees prevent stigmatizing and maintain the student's privacy as well as the family's right to confidentiality.

General

The common bed bug (*cimex lectularius*) is a wingless, red-brown, blood-sucking insect. Bed bugs hide in cracks and crevices in beds, wooden furniture, floors and walls during the daytime and emerge at night to feed on their preferred host, humans.

Bed bugs are small and easily overlooked. They appear as flat as a piece of paper. The adults can live for six months without food (blood from bites). Their appearance dramatically changes after feeding; they become bloated and dark red. Bed bugs have a tendency to cluster together; therefore you may find adults, young and eggs in the same location.

Bed bugs are not known to transmit disease to humans. Bites are most often located on the face, neck, arms and/or hands, but can be found anywhere on the body.

Transmission

Bed bugs cannot fly or jump and cannot climb metal or polished surfaces. They are transported and can spread through luggage, second-hand mattresses, infested furniture and clothing. Bed bugs are rarely found on affected persons or their clothing.

Clinical Manifestations

Bed bug bites can result in clinical manifestations; the most common are small clusters of extremely pruritic erythematous papules or wheals. Bites should be managed symptomatically with topical emollients, topical corticosteroids, oral antihistamines, or some combination of these treatments.

Regulations / Procedure

Any student suspected of having an active infestation will be referred to the school nurse for evaluation.

A student, with bed bugs visualized by the school nurse, shall be referred for treatment at the end of the school day. Prompt treatment at home shall be advised, including removal of live bed bugs. Immediate removal from school is not recommended.

District-approved written information about the identification and management of active bed bug infestation may be provided by the school nurse to the parent/guardian of the affected student.

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At the discretion of the school nurse, it may be appropriate to screen other children who have had close contact with the student with active infestation, such as household family members, but classroom-wide or schoolwide screening is not generally indicated.

Upon return to school after treatment, the student will be reassessed for the presence of bed bugs by the school nurse. If live bed bugs are again visualized, the school nurse will contact the parent/guardian and reinforce the need for prompt treatment at home. The student may be permitted to return to the classroom.

If upon reassessment by the school nurse, bed bugs are found, either at the time of the initial or return assessment, the student will be assessed at weekly intervals or more frequently at the discretion of the school nurse.

The school nurse is authorized to, in consultation with school administrator(s), exclude a student with repeated infestations of live bed bugs, or a student with a current infestation for which there is inadequate management by the parent/guardian. This student may be referred to his/her healthcare provider and/or the Salem County Health Department for additional intervention(s).

Prevention Strategies

- A. Maintain a clean and clutter free environment to eliminate shelter for bed bugs;
- B. Refrain from hoarding excess clothing and linen in closets, which may also serve as shelter for bed bugs;
- C. Clothing, etc., should not be left at the nurse's office or other rooms in the school;
- D. Discourage the use of personal bedding from home, such as blankets and pillows.

Procedure for Control

The following shall apply when a bed bug is identified at school:

- A. The school nurse or his or her designee shall retain the insect in a plastic specimen container for identification by the exterminator. Wear gloves;
- B. The school nurse shall notify the appropriately designated administrator;
- C. The designated administrator will contact the contracted pest control company to inspect the potentially affected room(s);
- D. The school nurse shall discretely take the affected individual to a room by himself/herself until inspected and cleared;
- E. The school nurse shall examine the affected individual for bed bugs and bites if not already evident;
- F. The school nurse shall secure the affected individual's belongings in a plastic bag, sealed with tape and labeled "DO NOT OPEN – BED BUGS." A family member shall be contacted to remove these items. Items that are not removed by the family shall remain sealed appropriately or discarded with the consent of the affected individual or his/her parent/guardian as appropriate;
- G. The affected room and any items in it shall be closed until inspected and potentially treated by the exterminator;
- H. Exterminator will handle the room according to the Integrated Pest Management Policy (see board policy 3510 Operation and Maintenance of Plant) of the district;
- I. If there is no indication for treatment, the exterminator will set monitors as per their protocol. The room may need to be closed until monitors are checked the next day;

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- J. If the exterminator treats the room, it will remain closed as per their instructions;
- K. After such time has elapsed, the room will be terminally cleaned by school maintenance staff and returned to use.

A copy of this policy shall be provided to district employees at time of hire and may be reviewed as needed.

Adopted: May 24, 2016
 Revised: January 2020, November 23, 2001
 NJSBA Review/Update: April 2025
 Readopted:

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A. 13:1F-19 through -33</u>	<u>School Integrated Pest Management Act</u>
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.6 et seq.</u>	<u>Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979</u>
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1</u>	Employment of medical inspectors, optometrists and nurses; salaries; terms; rules
	<u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40-7, -8, -10, -11</u>	Exclusion of students who are ill
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.1 et seq.</u>	Programs to Support Student Development
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4, -2.3,</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.1 et seq.</u>	Operation and Maintenance of School Facilities
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.2(a)1-2</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.1 et seq.</u>	Reportable Communicable Diseases

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1410	Local units
	*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
	*3516	Safety
	*4112.4/4212.4	Employee health
	*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	*4231/4231.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	4151.2/4251.2	Family illness/quarantine
	*5111	Admission
	*5125	Student records
	*5141.1	Accidents
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
	*5141.4	Child abuse and neglect
	*5141.21	Administering medication
	*5142	Student safety
	*5200	Nonpublic school students

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.