



Bed Bugs

Intent Statement

This policy was developed to assist child care providers by providing information about and guidelines for dealing with bed bugs in the childcare center.

Procedure and Practice

Cause:

Bed Bugs are flat, oval-shaped creatures that are about the size of an apple seed and are up to $\frac{1}{4}$ in long. Bed bugs live close to areas where people sleep. Bed bugs usually feed on human hosts at night and hide in small spaces (under beds and mattresses, in furniture, etc.) during the day. After feeding, the color of bed bugs changes from brown to purplish-red.

Symptoms:

A bed bug bite may look like a flea or mosquito bite. Typically the bites will be on the head, arms, hands or legs. They may become irritated and inflamed and scratching may cause the bites to become infected.

Spread:

- Bed bugs do not jump or fly. They are not transmitted like head lice from person to person. They crawl to find a human host. They do not live on humans but rather feed exclusively on blood taken from persons asleep or at rest. Bed bugs are stowaways and tend to latch onto bags, beds, clothing, books, furniture, and other items. They do not carry infectious diseases. Bed bugs have the potential to live up to one year without food and it is crucial to identify and treat infestations early.

Signs of Bed Bugs:

- Ink-colored stains or dark red spots on mattress edges, tags and seams, as well as other parts of bedding may indicate the presence of bed bugs. Cast skins, which are empty shells of bed bugs as they grow from one stage to the next, may be present.
- Live crawling bugs may be found around the seams of bed mattresses or in the crevices of the bed frame or headboard. In heavier infestations, live bugs may be found further away from the bed in window and door frames, electrical boxes, cracks in floors and ceilings, within furniture, and behind picture frames on walls. Bed bugs may also hide under seat cushions in electrical outlets and in carpets.

Because child care centers are an ideal place for bed bugs to be transported to and from, we have set the following guidelines.

- Different kinds of insects look like bed bugs. They should be compared with good reference images to confirm their identity. Collect any specimens thought to be bed bugs and place them in small container of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and have the specimens identified by a qualified individual for confirmation.
- When a suspected bed bug is found in the child's belongings, the child will be discreetly removed from the classroom and his/her clothing and belongings along with the area in which they were stored, will be inspected. To kill all stages of bed bugs, clothing and other items can be dried in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes.
- After inspection, potentially infested belongings will be placed in a tightly sealed container such as a garbage bag or plastic bin with a lid. The belongings will be left there except when they are needed or when the child leaves for home.
- Information will be sent home with the child to inform parents or guardians that the home may be infested. Educational material will be included about bed bugs and how they are controlled, including information about the need for professionals to confirm and control bed bug infestations. A generalized letter will be to be sent to parents of the entire classroom, alerting them that a bed bug was found so they can heighten their awareness and protect themselves at home. Children suspected of bringing bed bugs to child care center or school, should not be required to leave school or stay home. Control and treatment for bed bugs may take many weeks, so forced expulsion of students is impractical.
- If a bed bug infestation is suspected within a classroom, that classroom will be quarantined until a pest control specialist can check the room to rule out an infestation. A control plan will be made on a case by case basis. Items will not be removed from a room until after the inspection has taken place. Items that can be laundered should be washed in hot water with detergent and dried in a hot dryer. Furniture or other items harboring bed bugs will be disposed of. This will increase the chances of irradiating the insects in the room.
- All sleeping accommodations in the facility will be inspected for bed bugs.

Applicable

This policy applies to all staff, substitute staff, parents and volunteers in child care setting.

Created 03/2012

Communication

Staff and volunteers will receive a written copy of this policy in their orientation packets before beginning work at this facility. All parents will receive a written copy of this policy in the parent handbook.

References

Bed Bugs Fact Sheet, California Childcare Health Program, www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/factsheets/BedBugs_en_0709.pdf

Bed Bug Safety Tips When Using a Daycare Center, Bedbug.com, www.bedbug.com/Page-Bedbug-tips-when-using-a-daycare-center_193.aspx

Learn About Bed Bugs, Healthy Childcare Pennsylvania, www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org/article.cfm?contentID=347

Reducing Risks of Bed Bugs in Schools & Day Care Centers, Clermont, California School District, www.clermonthhealthdistrict.org/BedBugSchoolDayCare.pdf

Hennepin County Community Health Department. 2003. *Infectious Disease in Childcare Settings and Schools*. 5th Edition. www.hennepin.us/childcaremanual

Reviewed by:

Director/Owner

Board Member

CCHC/Health Professional

Staff Member

Parent/Guardian

Effective Date/Review Date

This policy is effective immediately. It will be reviewed yearly by the center director.