UT Youth Environment and Health

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Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter

Draft Protocol for Limiting the Spread of Bed Bugs in Tennessee's Schools Discussed at School IPM Advisory Board Meeting

Karen Vail

The 2011 school IPM advisory board met on December 15th to discuss bed bugs and how to prepare for bed bug introductions in schools. Revisions to a draft of *Sample Protocol for Limiting the Spread of Bed Bugs in Tennessee's Schools* were discussed and notes taken so the document could be revised. However, we have decided to take another approach and have received permission from Erik Foster, of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), to modify their materials.

Bed Bugs: What Schools Need to Know

Recently, Michigan and other states have seen an increased number of bed bug infestations plaguing residents. As bed bugs infest more and more homes, they may find their way into schools. When this happens, the school needs to take proactive action to prevent infestation and stop them from spreading in the school setting.

What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are small, brownish, flattened insects that feed on the blood of people while they sleep. Although the bite does not hurt at the time, it may develop into an itchy welt similar to a mosquito bite. Bed bugs do not transmit disease, but they can cause significant itchiness, anxiety, and sleeplessness. Bed bug infestations are also very difficult and expensive to control.

Usually, bed bugs will hide during the day and only come out to feed during the night. Unlike head lice, they do not live on a person. However, they can hitchhike from one place to another in backpacks, clothing, luggage, books, and other items.

Could my classroom be infested?

Actual bed bug infestations in schools are uncommon. More commonly, a few bed bugs will hitchhike to school from an infested home by hiding in a student's clothing or backpack. Bed bugs that hitch a ride into the school in one student's backpack could be carried home by another student, making the school a potential hub for bed bug spread. This is not a minor concern – bed bugs are very expensive and difficult to eradicate.

If a school plans to use pesticides to control pests indoors, then they are required under Michigan law to have an integrated pest management (IPM) plan in place. If a bed bug infestation is suspected or a number of students are getting bitten during class, the school should contact a licensed pest management professional for assistance.

This fact sheet has been published by the Michigan Bed Bug Working Group (Update May 2010).

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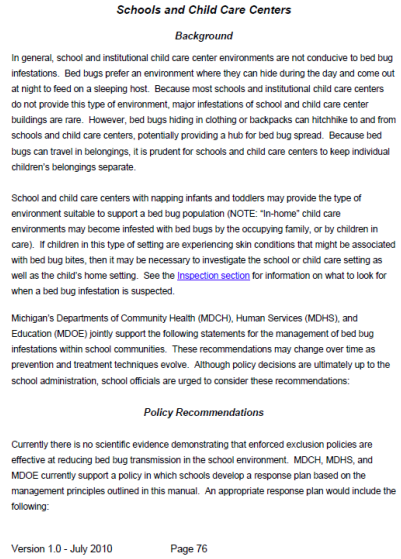

Schools and Child Care Centers

Background

In general, school and institutional child care center environments are not conducive to bed bug infestations. Bed bugs prefer an environment where they can hide during the day and come out at night to feed on a sleeping host. Because most schools and institutional child care centers do not provide this type of environment, major infestations of school and child care center buildings are rare. However, bed bugs hiding in clothing or backpacks can hitchhike to and from schools and child care centers, potentially providing a hub for bed bug spread. Because bed bugs can travel in belongings, it is prudent for schools and child care centers to keep individual children's belongings separate.

School and child care centers with napping infants and toddlers may provide the type of environment suitable to support a bed bug population (NOTE: "In-home" child care environments may become infested with bed bugs by the occupying family, or by children in care). If children in this type of setting are experiencing skin conditions that might be associated with bed bug bites, then it may be necessary to investigate the school or child care setting as well as the child's home setting. See the Inspection section for information on what to look for when a bed bug infestation is suspected.

Michigan's Departments of Community Health (MDCH), Human Services (MDHS), and Education (MDOE) jointly support the following statements for the management of bed bug infestations within school communities. These recommendations may change over time as prevention and treatment techniques evolve. Although policy decisions are ultimately up to the school administration, school officials are urged to consider these recommendations:

Policy Recommendations

Currently there is no scientific evidence demonstrating that enforced exclusion policies are effective at reducing bed bug transmission in the school environment. MDCH, MDHS, and MDOE currently support a policy in which schools develop a response plan based on the management principles outlined in this manual. An appropriate response plan would include the following:

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The MDCH along with their Bed Bug Working Group (http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,1607,7-186-26346_25949_55522---,00.html) has developed an extensive manual on bed bugs. We hope to adapt a flyer, *Bed Bugs: What Schools Need to Know* and produce policy recommendations for schools and day cares. The school bed bug publications we develop will be assessed by the school IPM advisory board and then sent to the Tennessee Department of Education for final review. The finished publications will be posted to the school IPM web site, schoolipm.utk.edu and other UT Extensions web sites. If funding can be obtained, we hope to produce printed copies also.

Special points of interest:

- Bed Bugs in Schools Protocols Discussed
- Facility Master's Webinar on Bed Bugs and Head Lice Feb. 22

Roughly 65% of the school systems are using most (>70%) of the IPM practices queried about in the survey.

Based on the first three needed improvements (pesticides still applied on a predetermined schedule regardless of pest presence, baseboards still sprayed on a regular basis and lack of or uncertainty of cockroach baiting), 50% may be a better estimate of the Tennessee schools using IPM.

This issue

Webinar: Effective Integrated Pest Management for Bed Bugs and Lice in the Educational Environment

Facility Masters Webcast Series

Over 400 folks have already signed up for this webinar!

Effective Integrated Pest Management for Bed Bugs and Lice in the Educational Environment
Wednesday, February 22
12:00pm-1:15pm EST

The webinar will cover IPM standards and proven best practices that will help you:

- Identify, monitor and manage bed bugs, lice and other pests in schools
- Improve precautionary measures
- Prevent an infestation problem
- Improve pest management with less pesticide use and no increase in cost
- Establish preventive maintenance activities to manage pest problems long-term
- Educate instructors, administrators, maintenance/custodial staff, and students

Register now! https://cc.readytalk.com/r/wiutd6w0iyuf

Presenters are:

- Dr. Thomas Green: President - IPM Institute
- Wayne Walker: Senior Pest Control Technician - University of Florida
- Roger Young: Executive Director - Facility Masters / K12Masters.com
- Justin Turner: Applications Specialist - SchoolDude.com

This is a webcast you can't afford to miss! Can't join us on 2/22? Register anyway and receive the webcast recording via email.

This Facility Masters webcast is sponsored by SchoolDude. Visit School Dude Resources for additional resources on improving operations, maintenance and preventive maintenance.

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Comments or questions on this newsletter? Contact kvail@utk.edu

UT Extension

For more information about IPM in Tennessee schools and other facilities, or to view past issues of *Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities*, please visit schoolipm.utk.edu or utyeah.utk.edu

NATIONAL IPM INFORMATION

eXtension's Pest Management In and Around Structures: Urban Integrated Pest Management
http://www.extension.org/Urban%20Integrated%20Pest%20Management

National School IPM
schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/

IPM in Schools Texas
schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources.htm

IPM Institute of North America
www.ipminstitute.org/

School IPM PMSP—all schools IPM by 2015
http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015.htm

National Pest Management Association IPM
www.whatisipm.org/

EPA schools
www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html

For further information about the IPM program at your school or in your county, contact your county Extension Agent or the school IPM Coordinator. For county agent contact information, please visit www.agriculture.utk.edu/personnel/districts_counties/default.asp

Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.