

Leamington Mennonite Home  
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b>CATEGORY:</b> Disease-Specific Precautions	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Bed Bugs Identification & Management	<b>SECTION:</b> H <b>POLICY:</b> 5
<b>DATE:</b> July 12, 2022	<b>Administrator's Signature:</b> _____ <i>J. M.</i>	
<b>REVISION DATES:</b> December 2023	<b>IPAC Lead's Signature:</b> _____ <i>L. Coppola, RN.</i>	

**BED BUGS IDENTIFICATION & MANAGEMENT**

**POLICY:**

Residents identified with bed bug bites shall be managed according to housekeeping, maintenance, and infection control protocols to prevent exposure to other residents, staff, and visitors, and infestation of the Home.

**Background:**

It is a common concern that bed bugs can harbor and transmit disease. Though bed bugs can harbor diseases and pathogens, it is highly unlikely that they transmit them to humans. Bed bugs are not considered a disease threat and medical significance is limited to the itching and inflammation caused by bed bug bites. They can in some people cause allergic skin reactions and secondary bacterial infection from scratching. Their bites are painless and typically happen at night while a person is sleeping. Bed bugs feed for about 10 minutes, then crawl off to a sheltered crevice. They will bite anywhere on the body, but especially on exposed areas such as the face, neck, arms, and hands.

**PROCEDURE:**

If bed bugs are suspected, all Staff will proceed as follows:

The IPAC Lead or DNPC will:

- 1) Collaborate with Maintenance and Pest Control Company to confirm Bed Bugs.
- 2) Implement surveillance to track the potential spread to other areas of the Home.
- 3) Monitor and track the progress of extermination.

Resident Areas:

- 4) If bugs are found on a resident or his/her belongings, call Pest Control Company for assistance in identifying the bug and correct action to be taken.

- 5) Collect a bug in a specimen cup for identification purposes for review by the Home's pest control company.
- 6) Offer resident a shower. Inspect body for additional identification of bed bugs as well as inspection of skin integrity due to bites. If a resident has bed bug bites, wash the area with soap and water to reduce the risk of infection.
- 7) Change clothing that resident is wearing into a hospital gown while awaiting clothes from laundry. Remove all other resident's clothing, including footwear, hair covering, and any jewelry. Follow pest company's recommendations to get rid of bed bugs from personal items.
- 8) Examine the environment, paying special attention to cracks and crevices, mattresses, curtains, bed frames, behind wallpaper, behind picture frames, outlets, and door and window molding. Look for dark spots of dried bug excrement, light-brown molted skin of nymphs, and the bugs themselves.
- 9) If there are any indications of bed bugs, collaborate with Housekeeping, IPAC Lead, and the Home's pest control company on the extermination plan if necessary.
- 10) Do not remove any equipment (i.e., isolation carts, bedside tables, chairs, etc.) until it has been thoroughly inspected and cleaned.
- 11) Discard linen into a water-soluble bag and take immediately to the laundry room. Linen will be washed in hot water and dried on hot.
- 12) Discard trash into separate garbage bags and take it immediately to the dumpster outside of the Home.

Remediation procedures (once bed bugs are confirmed):

- 1) Housekeeping will work with the Home's pest control company for environmental treatment once bed bugs are confirmed.
- 2) The environment will be inspected to determine extent of bed bug infestation.
- 3) Bag all infested bedding in a water-soluble bag and take immediately to the laundry room.. Linen will be washed in hot water and dried on hot and returned to service.
- 4) Bag all trash and take immediately to the external garbage bin.
- 5) Bag all clothes and belongings (i.e., footwear, hair covering, etc.) in a linen bag (tied with gooseneck tie) and take immediately to laundry to be dried in dryer for a full cycle on high heat for one hour, then washed if needed (do not wash prior to drying – the drying kills the bug/eggs).
- 6) The Home's pest control company will determine the best treatment option that would include hot water, chemical, or heat treatments.

**Note:** The resident may need to be relocated to another room while their room is being cleaned and the crevices sealed.