

Bed Bugs (*Cimex Lectularius*)

Bed bugs are small, reddish brown, wingless, flat, parasitic insects that bite humans and animals while they sleep. Bed bugs are not known to transmit or spread disease and should not be considered a medical or public health hazard. **No exclusion from school is necessary.** It is important to remember that bed bugs do not discriminate, and infestations are not a reflection of cleanliness. Bed bugs do not infect the person; they infect the living area and require extermination.

References for information on this topic include the following:

Taliaferro, V. et al. (2016) School Nurse Research Manual, Nashville, TN: Robert Andrews

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/faqs.html>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/bedbugs/symptoms-causes/syc-20370001>