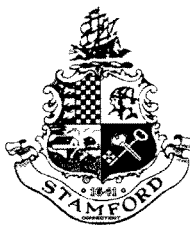


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CITY OF STAMFORD
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152

November 16, 2010

Dear Stamford Public Schools Community,

Bed bugs have been sited in the Stamford community, most recently in our schools. A siting means one bug may have been located and properly identified but is not the same as an infestation. It is important to know that while bed bugs are a nuisance, their bites do not spread disease. However, we would like to share what steps the Stamford Health Department and Stamford Public Schools are taking to prevent and eliminate bed bugs, as well as what you can do at home.

Bed bugs are usually active at night and feed on human blood. The bite does not hurt, but may become swollen and itch, much like a mosquito bite. Bed bug bites usually appear in clusters, such as in a line, on exposed areas of the body.

The source of bed bugs often cannot be determined, as they may be found in many places including hotels, planes, and movie theaters. If an insect suspected of being a bedbug is found in a school, it is brought to the Health Department laboratory for proper identification by trained health personnel. A student with suspicious bites on his or her body would be sent to the nurse for evaluation and, if necessary, sent home for follow up with the Health Department. Any affected areas of the school would be sealed off. A Connecticut licensed pest control company would evaluate and clean the area. The Health Department would conduct an inspection before re-opening it to students and staff.

Attached is a fact sheet on bed bugs. Additionally, the Stamford Health Department has posted information at <http://www.cityofstamford.org/content/25/52/140/214/364/402/46183/122223.aspx>. This site includes information about how to keep your home pest-free.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any general questions, please call the Stamford Department of Health & Social Services at (203) 977-4363 or the laboratory at (203) 977-5843

Sincerely,

Anne T. Fountain, MPH
Director of Health & Social Services

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools