

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are now into the time of year when bed bugs begin hitching a ride to school on some of our students. Akron Public Schools (APS) has strict measures in place and works in concert with local public health experts to confront the problem.

APS takes its lead on dealing with bed bugs from the Summit County Public Health Department. You should know, the health department considers bed bugs a *nuisance*, but not a serious health threat because their bites are not known to spread disease.

Bed bugs are usually active at night and feed on human blood. The bite does not hurt at first, but it may become swollen and itch, much like a mosquito bite. We ask parents to watch for clusters of bites, usually in a line, on exposed areas of the body.

The source of bed bugs often cannot be determined, as bed bugs may be found in many places including hotels, planes, and movie theaters. Even though it is unlikely for bed bugs to be spread in schools, at APS we will always conduct an inspection and, if needed, will treat the area where the bed bug was found.

If we discover a bed bug in school, we may have students place their belongings in large, seal-able plastic bags as a preventative measure. This method is usually employed until our pest control specialists arrive to treat the area.

This has been an effective protocol for stopping the spread of bed bugs.

Should you have questions regarding bed bugs, contact the Summit County Health District at **330-923-4891** or refer to the link below. It provides several sources for additional information.

-- [Bed Bug Information](#)