



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

March 3, 2011

To: Adult Day Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Free-Standing Hospice Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation or Related Conditions, and Nursing Facilities

Subject: **Provider Letter #11-12** – Information for the Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a joint statement on bed bug control to highlight emerging public health issues associated with bed bugs in communities throughout the United States. The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) issues this letter to notify facility providers that the joint statement referenced above and information for the prevention and management of bed bugs is available through the CDC website. The CDC has created a "Parasites – Bed Bugs" webpage found at <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/>. On the webpage, a person may access bed bug-related information, such as:

- Frequently asked questions (For example, for the question, "Do bed bugs spread disease," the CDC November 2, 2010, response is, "Bed bugs should not be considered as a medical or public health hazard. Bed bugs are not known to spread disease. Bed bugs can be an annoyance because their presence may cause itching and loss of sleep. Sometimes, the itching can lead to excessive scratching that can sometimes increase the chance of a secondary skin infection.")
- Biology information
- Publications (For example, *Bed Bugs: Integrated Pest Management In and Around the Home*, published in September 2002 by the University of California.)
- Additional resources, including:
 - a link to the "Bed Bugs" CDC Environmental Health Services resources webpage found at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Topics/bedbugs.htm>. On the webpage, a person can find the CDC and EPA joint statement referenced above and many other resources.
 - the *Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs in Shelters and Group Living Facilities*, published in 2008 by Cornell University.
 - a link to the "Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite!" Michigan state government "Diseases To Watch For - Bed Bug Resources" webpage found at <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,1607,7-186-26346-147759--,00.html>. On the webpage, a person can find the *Michigan Manual for the Prevention and Control of Bed Bugs* issued by the Michigan Department of Community Health. This manual contains comprehensive guidance to identify, treat, manage and prevent bed bugs with site-specific guidelines for the management and prevention of bed bug infestations in group living settings.

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Additional resources are available through the CDC website. DADS encourages providers to educate themselves on emerging public health issues.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact a policy specialist in the Policy, Rules and Curriculum Development unit at (512) 438-3161.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Veronda L. Durden
Assistant Commissioner
Regulatory Services

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