

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



June 2024

Chatham County Environmental Health



About School Sanitation Inspections

North Carolina Rules Governing the Sanitation of Public Schools require sanitation inspections to be conducted annually.

During these inspections, Environmental Health (EH) staff ensure that sanitation standards are being met by the school. Environmental Health conducts a data review of all school sanitation reports annually. During this review, we determine the highest out of compliance violation for most schools. This allows EH to provide targeted education to the schools.

School Year 2023-2024 Sanitation Stats

Seven schools scored a 100 on their school building sanitation reports. Congratulations! Way to go! We appreciate your hard work, keeping the school safe and clean!

The highest violation for most schools was the storage of chemicals (Rule 2415b).



Reminder:

Per Rule 2415b

All chemicals shall be stored:

- A minimum of 5' from finished floor
- Labeled with common name
- Not to cross-contaminate food
- Locked storage



Resources and Recommendations

- We recommend that administrators send out reminder emails to all school staff about chemical storage in classrooms.
- We recommend teacher's store personal items such as medications at their desk in a storage cabinet.
- We have resources! Ask your inspector about our reminder chemical storage stickers!

Bed Bug Information

Bed Bugs are making a re-emergence in our community. Our schools are among the impacted spaces. Numerous studies have been performed regarding bed bugs and their impact on the health of people. To date, there is no evidence that the insects are capable of transmitting any type of disease; however, they do feed on the blood of people and animals. In terms of human populations, bed bugs may cause many detrimental health effects on a physiological and psychological level. Furthermore, there are many negative economic-based consequences associated with infestations. Bedbug infestations are difficult to manage and can be expensive to treat.

IDENTIFICATION

Bedbugs? NC Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center can help confirm the identity of suspect insects.

Step 1: Photos

Send photos first to reduce the chance of spread. Make sure your photos are:

- close-up
- well-lit
- with an object for scale

Send photos to **Matt Jones** (Chatham Horticulture Agent) at matt_jones@ncsu.edu.

If identification confirmation cannot be made by photos alone, we may request a physical sample.

Do not send in physical samples without first trying photographs and contacting Matt Jones.



Step 2: Physical Samples

Only after photo attempt + contacting Matt Jones

2 Options

Store sample in a **sealed plastic bag** and place in the **freezer for 24 hours**.

OR

Store sample in **sealed container in isopropyl or ethyl alcohol for 24 hours**

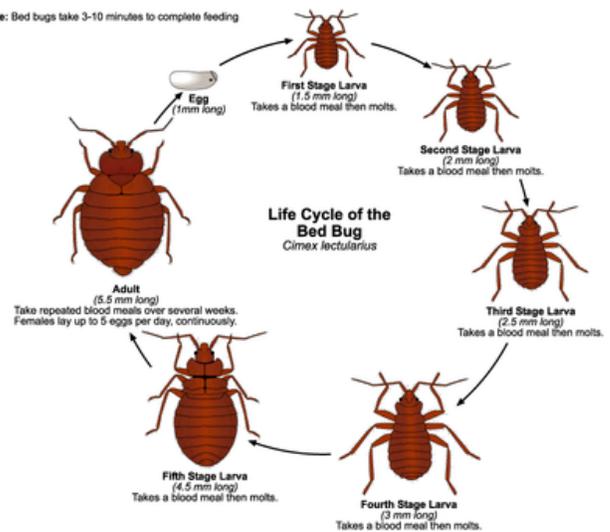
Drop-off

Email Matt Jones and dropoff the samples at the NC Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center.

Our office is at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, west side entrance. 1192 US 64 W Business, Pittsboro

Place physical samples outside, near our soil testing box.

Note: Bed bugs take 3-10 minutes to complete feeding



Additional Information on Bedbugs

[Chatham County Environmental Health](#)

[NCSU Cooperative Extension](#)

[CDC Bed Bugs](#)

[Youtube video on Bed Bugs](#) by NC Dept of Agriculture

What to know about Bed Bugs

- Not known to spread disease
- Bites can cause itching, loss of sleep and rarely allergic reactions
- Prevent bed bugs by regularly looking for signs of infestation

