Bed Bug Policy Responses

* When it has been this severe for a student in the past we called DCS.  Sometimes they have resources to help them.
* I once had a student in a different county who smelled of cat urine to the point where students could not have lockers around hers. You could see the urine on her homework. After multiple calls to DCS and the health department. The health department told us that there was nothing to be done because the family was handling it the best they could, and we could be sued for harassment. I contacted the state to see what I should do, and they told me opposite of what the health department and DCS told me. After further conversation with all 3 departments, I decided to pulled back on a lot of issues of hygiene. I still address hygiene, but after a certain point I start to pull back as that could be the norm for the home, and I do not want to risk a lawsuit.
* I don't know if this helps and maybe you tried this but at a monthly meeting last week with our county DCS the director suggested that we call SCAN and help get the family set up with them. They go in and help to clean out the bugs. I know this topic is so frustrating because it does effect the student's learning when they have bites all over! My next case of the bugs I am making contact and hoping they can help.
* I forgot to ask if you have contacted anyone from the state level on this?  I know our school nurse contacts her people at the state level on this.  That may be another resource.
* It sounds like you are doing all that you can within your control.  We have had bed bugs issues in the past.  Our custodians treat those specific rooms every night.  During the day, we have that student put their belongings in a dark plastic tote in the nurse's office.

**Original Email:**

I’m inquiring about your schools’ policies with regard to students with bed bugs.  I have reviewed the information on counselor1stop, as well as the IN Dept. of Health’s “School Guidance for Management of Bed Bugs.”  We are having this student change clothes each day, we dry the clothes she came to school in, the entire classroom is putting their belongings into clear garbage bags upon arriving to school, we’ve communicated with the parent who says she has a professional coming to her home, and we had the school professionally treated.  The challenge is that this student goes to her dad’s Thursday-Monday morning, and supposedly, that is where they originated.  The mom claims he does nothing to get rid of them.  This student also had flea bites (and live fleas) on her, and she had recently been treated for head lice.  We called CPS, mostly on dad.  Mom seems responsive, but she has limited resources and has been threatened to be taken to court (by dad) if she does not allow her daughter to spend time with him.

We feel terrible for this student, but we’re also concerned about how to keep the school from continuously being infested if she continues going to her dad’s house and bringing them in each week.  I know the Dept. of Health says “it is not recommended to exclude students from school” and that “school related closure related to bed bugs is not recommended,” but we are concerned about how to keep this under control.  Any guidance, policy sharing, etc. would be greatly appreciated.