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## Only On 12: Bed Bugs Reported At Milwaukee Hospitals

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**Entomologist: Aurora Handling Situation Properly**

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POSTED: 5:44 pm CDT March 28, 2011  
UPDATED: 6:59 pm CDT March 28, 2011

WISN 12 News has learned five cases of bed bugs have been reported in hospitals in the past week, and the problem may be getting worse.

Bed bugs have almost literally been walking in the door of Milwaukee-area hospitals, carried in by patients at a rate that may surprise some people.

"We're seeing cases of bed bugs on a weekly basis. In reality, the bed bugs are coming in on patients," Aurora spokesman Adam Beeson said.

At Aurora St Luke's Hospital, bed bugs have shown up in recent days in an examining room, causing the hospital to take action.

"We then quarantine the area where that individual has been -- clothing, the furniture, etc.," Beeson said.

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A bed bug sniffing dog is then brought in to isolate the problem, and the room is then treated to make sure the bugs haven't spread.

"Bed bugs are getting worse throughout Milwaukee," said Ted Snyder of Batzner Pest Control.

Snyder, an entomologist, said it's not surprising that hospitals are seeing more instances of bed bugs, but said Aurora is handling the case in exactly the right way.

"Let's get rid of them before the infestation starts, and what you're describing -- done properly -- will stop that," Snyder said.

Aurora said it's investigated a total of five cases in recent days at St Luke's and Sinai medical centers. Other area hospitals are not reporting any increase in cases, but Snyder said it may just be a matter of time.



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"We've been really lucky here in Milwaukee not to deal with a lot of bed bugs until recently. The numbers are getting so much higher," Snyder said.

Aurora told 12 New us that, as of Monday, there are no active cases of bed bugs currently under investigation either at St. Luke's or here at Sinai Samaritan.

Wheaton Franciscan reported one recent case of bed bugs in its system but said there has not been any increase in number.

No other hospitals are reporting any recent cases.

The pest control expert says bed bugs are on the rise across Milwaukee and will continue to increase, showing any place people spend time, including hospitals.

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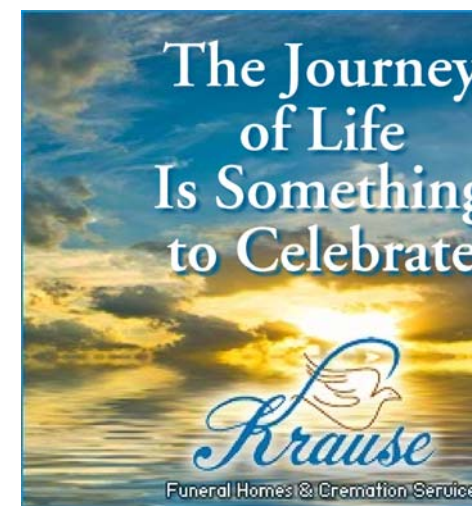
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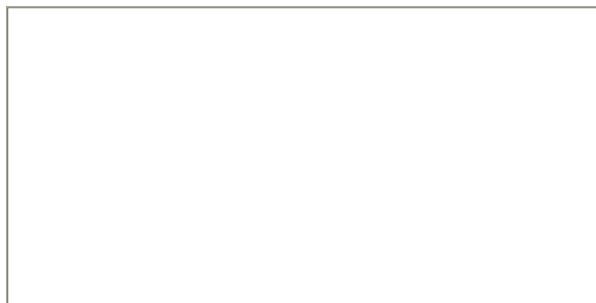
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Ok a bit of bedbug safety for travelers: once home,leave your suitcase outside for about 3 days. DO NOT plop it on your floor and then take it outside, don't bring it in. Leave it in a garage if you must, but take the clothes out, wash them and leave the suitcase outside. Bedbugs love to hide in nooks and crannies of suitcases. That also goes with any other luggage you took with you. It would be wise to also change purses when you get home and leave the purse that you traveled with outside.

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These freakin' pests are no joke! I was attacked twice when vacationing in the south. Dam bloodsucking beasts!

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