



JOHN JAY COLLEGE  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
OFFICE OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

ROBERT M. PIGNATELLO

TO: The John Jay Community

FROM: Senior Vice President Robert Pignatello

DATE: September 23, 2009

RE: Bed Bug Condition on 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of North Hall

Yesterday, Tuesday, September 22, it was determined by an EPA certified pest control company we hired that there are a few areas on the first floor of North Hall that contain some evidence of bed bugs. The company calls this a bed bug condition, not an infestation, emphasizing the limited nature of the problem. While most people think of hotels and mattresses when they hear bed bugs, it has become a growing problem in the City in commercial and office buildings too in recent years. While not known to cause or spread infections of any kind, their bites are of obvious concern. We do not know the source of what caused this condition and hired the pest control experts after several college employees complained of skin rashes.

While the situation appears to be at this point more of a nuisance than a health problem, we are proceeding with great caution. We have taken and are taking several steps to eradicate the bed bugs from the building. Only certain areas -- and not even those entire areas -- were determined to have evidence of bed bugs.

The areas found to have evidence of the insects include parts of the following areas: admissions, financial aid, health services, one stop, student government, disabled students, registrar, and a conference room.

These areas will be treated by a registered and certified pest control company, Assured Environments, with a treatment protocol approved by EPA. In order to do a most thorough and safe job and minimize disruption, this will be conducted Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 AM. North Hall will be closed for all activities and access from Saturday at 9:00 AM until morning Monday at 7:00 AM. While the chemical agents used to treat the areas will dissipate by early Sunday morning, we are allowing for extra time -- three times what is typically required -- before occupancy and use resumes for full and complete air exchange and for additional cleaning by our staff. The treatment will be done again after two weeks and be closely monitored in the meantime. The building will be safe to use Monday morning however after the initial treatment.

As a further precaution, we have also asked them to test the rest of the building. If any additional areas turn up affected, they will be treated this weekend as well.

Meanwhile, these affected areas will be temporarily closed and services temporarily relocated starting today as we prepare for the weekend. There will be signs posted and further announcements on these temporary plans.

In a separate communication, later today, we will also be providing additional information regarding bed bugs, the treatment process that will be used and follow up on our remediation plans.

**An information session will be held on Thursday, September 24 at 2:00 PM in room 1311 NH, where College Officials and representatives from Assured Environmental, and CUNY Health and Safety representatives will be on hand to answer questions.**

Please be assured that this matter is being given the utmost attention and priority. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we do what is necessary to properly address this environmental health issue.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the College's Environmental Health and Safety Shailendra Chainani at [schainani@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:schainani@jjay.cuny.edu) -ext. 8990 or The Director of Student Health Services Malaine Clarke at [maclarke@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:maclarke@jjay.cuny.edu) - ext. 8052.

**For further information and updates, students should regularly check online at Jay Stop. Faculty and staff should visit online at Inside John Jay.**

To learn more about bed bugs, [click here](#)