



Procedure for Bed Bugs

Cases of bed bugs will be managed according to the Infectious Disease Control Guidelines from OSPI and the Washington Department of Health. It is important to note that bed bugs do not carry disease. Bed bugs occur regardless of family income level or ethnicity and can be difficult to eradicate once established in a residence. The following procedures have been written to help minimize and control the spread of bed bugs in a school setting.

Procedure for prevention of bed bug infestation:

1. Health aide to send home parent bed bug prevention letter in October and March.
2. Health aide to place classroom bed bug prevention checklist in teacher's mail boxes in October and March.

Procedure for identification of bed bug cases:

1. Any concern, reports, or requests regarding bed bugs need to be reported to the School Nurse (SN) or Health Aide (HA).
2. If parents call to report bed bugs, the school nurse or health aide should be notified.
3. The school nurse or health aide will do all paper work and parent contact and will collect a sample for identification by a professional.
4. Follow-up checks will be done by school health aide.
 - a. Health Aide will follow up with parent within 24 hours of identification of bed bugs.
 - i. Recommend referral to licensed health care provider
 - ii. If bed bugs originate from student's home, recommend family treat infestation.
 - iii. Instruct family to wash school clothing and other personal items taken to school, such as backpacks, in water that is at least 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Items should be machine dried at hottest setting for at least 20 minutes.
 - b. Health Aide will call student to health room for bed bug check daily upon their arrival at school until issue is resolved.
 - c. Health Aide will notify school nurse of persistent bed bug cases and/or families in need of resources.

Process for when new cases are identified:

1. Per OSPI guidelines, students identified as having bed bugs are not to be excluded from school.
2. Student's personal items such as coat and backpack will be stored in plastic containers or bags away from other students' personal items until matter is resolved.
3. All students identified as having bed bugs will be given a letter notifying parents that bed bugs were identified and that treatment is necessary. Parents should be contacted by phone to notify them that their child was identified as having bed bugs.
4. At the principal's discretion the October and March general notification (prevention letter) may be distributed to parents with a notification that the school has had a confirmed case of bed bugs. This will occur after consultation with their immediate supervisor.
5. Additional information may be found at:

- a. [Washington Department of Health](#)
- b. [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- c. [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

Procedure for when bed bugs are found in a school

1. A trained pest management professional will inspect the spaces where a bed bug has been found.
2. If the trained pest management professional finds no further evidence of bed bugs in the spaces identified, school staff will maintain vigilance. This may include the placement of collection devices for a set period of time and daily monitoring for any evidence of bed bugs or precautionary spraying of the identified spaces.
3. If bed bugs are found in the spaces identified by a trained pest management professional:
 - a. The room will be thoroughly cleaned, including vacuuming of carpeting and crevices and washing of fabric items.
 - b. The room will be treated by a trained pest management professional
 - c. Student personal items such as coats and backpacks in any affected classroom will be stored in plastic containers or bags while the issue is resolved.
 - d. Parents of students using the affected spaces will be notified of the findings and provided details of the school's plan and preventative measures to be taken at home.
 - e. The affected spaces will be monitored and measures taken until there is no evidence of bed bugs found.

Additional preventative measures to be taken in schools:

1. Eliminate clutter that can shelter pests, such as cardboard boxes.
2. Seal cracks and crevices in walls.
3. Minimize upholstered furniture in classrooms. Launder floor pillows, mats and other shared fabric items regularly and dry in a hot dryer.
4. Vacuum carpeted areas regularly.

It is important for all staff to remember that the student's confidentiality, privacy and self-esteem are of the utmost importance.