



Bed Bug Protocol

Bed bugs are small insects that feed on human blood. They are usually active at night when people sleep. Bed bugs are usually not seen during daylight hours. Although bed bugs are becoming a very common problem that affects our general quality of life, they are not known to transmit diseases. The home of any person can be infested by bed bugs, regardless of sex, race, or economic status. It is important to treat each child with discretion, dignity and respect when dealing with this issue.

Confirmation of Bed Bugs on an individual student in the School Setting

1. Please, handle with utmost care and confidentiality identifying a student potentially having bed bugs. Temporarily remove the student from the classroom. Contact the school based Social Worker, Counselor, school site Nurse, or other qualified individual that can perform an inspection of the student's clothing and other belongings (including hat, shoes, jacket/coat, backpack and school supplies). This inspection should be done in a confidential and private area.
2. Without drawing significant attention to the student, check the areas where the student sits or affected belongings may be placed for an extended period.
3. To confirm there are bed bugs, **positive identification is required**. Try to collect specimen(s) for positive identification. Place the specimen (bed bug) securely in a sandwich size plastic bag and seal with tape. Try not to crush the bug and do not staple the bag. Keep specimens as intact as possible. NOTE: pictures are not admissible to identify a suspected bed bug. Only actual bug specimens are analyzed.
4. Upon determination of a bed bug found on a student, **do not send the student home**. Contact the parent, legal guardian, or person responsible for the student and discuss the situation. Inform them of the MPS Bed Bug Protocol. Send home a copy of the district information sheet on how to deal with bed bugs at home with the child.
7. Until parents verify home treatment, the affected student(s) should check in through the front office each day. Backpacks or coats brought by the child are inspected for bed bugs and placed in a sealed plastic bag for the school day. ALWAYS protect the integrity and confidentiality of the student.

Suggestions to Share with the Parent, Legal Guardian, or Person Responsible for Student's Care

Use the following suggestions when discussing the situation with the parent/legal guardian:

- 1) If the home is rented, notify the property owner immediately, especially for a suspected infestation.
- 2) If the home is owned, the family can contact a professional pest management company and the Muskogee health Department for assistance.
- 3) Explain to the parents/guardians the importance to only send essential items to school with the student (many times backpacks are not necessary).
- 4) Keep school items sealed in a plastic bag or plastic storage box with a lid at home to limit the likelihood of re-infestation.
- 5) Keep clean clothes sealed in a plastic storage box with a lid or trash bag until the student puts them on in the morning.

Confirmation of Bed Bugs in the School Setting

1. The Director of Maintenance will schedule a pest management inspection with the Pest Management Company.
Note: If no other bed bugs are found on inspection of the classroom, it is not necessary to vacate the space and it is not considered an infestation.

2. Parental notification of all classroom parents should only occur if a classroom infestation is identified.

3. After positive identification of an infestation, the School Principal will provide the classroom parents with appropriate information regarding bed bugs.

4. The Director of Maintenance will arrange for treatment of the classroom as soon as possible.

Recommendations for Keeping Bed Bugs Out Of the Classroom

1. Reduce clutter! Clutter serves as an ideal habitat for bed bugs whether at home, school or office. By reducing clutter in your workplace or school, you provide fewer places for the bed bugs to hide and fewer opportunities for them to hitchhike into your home.

2. Keep your belongings stowed separately from those of other people. If there is a known problem with bed bugs in the office or school, consider storing your belongings in a plastic bags or bins.

3. Identify areas where bed bugs are most likely to be found, which include break rooms, storage areas (coat closets or cubbies), offices or lounges with upholstered furniture, or areas where people may rest.

4. Educate the staff so that they know what to do if a bug is found that appears to be a bed bug.

5. Discourage panic and the stigma associated with bed bugs. This response is counterproductive and can make treatment more difficult.

6. Vacuum daily to pick up any stray bugs before they settle in.

Resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/faqs.html>

<https://oklahoma.gov/health/county-health-departments/cleveland-county-health-department/services/environmental-health/mosquitos-and-bed-bugs.html>

<http://www.okdhs.org/services/aging/Pages/guidelinesforreducingbedbugsriskduringhomevisits.aspx>

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