

CONTROL OF BED BUGS

Students suspected of carrying bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*) will be discretely removed from the classroom so that the school nurse or another qualified individual can perform an inspection of the student's clothing and belongings, including shoes, jackets, hats, books, backpacks, school supplies, etc.

After a positive identification, the school administration will directly contact the student's parent or guardian and provide the following information:

- A. Instruct the parent or guardian to send the student to school with a sealable plastic bag containing a clean, freshly laundered change of clothes. The clothes should be washed at the hottest recommended setting and tumble dried on high heat for at least 30 minutes before being placed in the bag.
- B. Request that the parent or guardian send only essential items to school with the student. These items should be inspected upon arrival at school. The school may offer to keep non-essential items overnight to help ensure the items are bed bug free.
- C. Suggest keeping school items sealed in a plastic bag at home and limit items going back and forth from home to school until the infestation is under control.

The Administration will also send to the parents or guardians of all students in the classroom of the student identified as carrying bed bugs a notification letter and a bed bug "Fact Sheet," which will provide steps parents or guardians should take to address a bed bug infestation in their place of residence.

To help minimize the potential transfer of bed bugs or their eggs from one student's belongings to another, students identified as carrying bed bugs will have their personal belongings (coat, backpack, lunch bag, etc.) separated from those of their classmates or placed in individual plastic containers labeled with the students' names.

A school nurse will be assigned to recheck students previously identified as carrying bed bugs on the morning the students return to school. If bed bugs are found, the Administration will contact the student's parents or guardians, as well as the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, or any other appropriate public agency, as deemed necessary by the school principal.

Because bed bugs are not known to transmit disease, students identified as potentially carrying bed bugs will not be excluded from school. However, all reasonable steps to safely remove bed bugs from such students and prevent the spread of future infestations may be taken. The Administration will discretely follow the guidelines provided in this policy with the affected student's dignity in mind.

Adopted: August 12, 2014

School Letterhead

Date

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter has been sent to you in response to a bed bug being found in your child's classroom. Although it is often very difficult to identify the source of the bed bug and pinpoint how it was brought into the school, our staff is in the process of conducting a thorough inspection of the school and treating appropriately where necessary. We will continue to monitor the situation and consult with public health and pest control professionals to eliminate any bed bugs in the building and to minimize the potential for future bed bug activity in the school.

Although bed bugs are a nuisance, they have not been known to spread disease. Anyone who comes in direct contact with bed bugs or their eggs can unknowingly carry them into their home or workplace. They are easily spread by moving beds, furniture, luggage, or clothing from one location to another. For this reason, it is important that you inspect your child's backpack, lunch bag and other items regularly for the presence of bedbugs.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health recommends that you routinely check your residence for signs of bed bug activity. Eliminating an extensive bed bug infestation can be a very challenging and costly process, so it is very important to begin treatments and prevention practices as soon as a problem is identified.

Bed bugs require blood to survive and reproduce, so they will typically look to bite any areas of exposed skin while you are asleep. The bites may not hurt at first, but may become swollen and itch a few days later, much like a mosquito bite. Most bed bug bites do not usually necessitate medical treatment. Wash the affected area with soap and water and then apply Calamine lotion to help dry out the bumps and stop the itching. If allergic reactions persist, an antibiotic cream or topical steroid, such as Hydrocortisone, will help take care of the infection. Please contact your physician with specific medical questions.

If you have any questions regarding bed bugs or our response efforts, please feel free to contact the Principal or School Nurse. Detailed information on bed bugs and appropriate control measures can be obtained on the Board of Health's web site (www.ccbh.net). Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Principal or School Nurse