

BED BUG PROTOCOL FOR LNSU SCHOOLS

I. If a suspected bed bug is found on a student, he or she **should not** be sent home, but the parents should be notified.

- a. It is not necessary for the student to be sent home or isolated from other students.
- b. The student should be temporarily removed from the classroom so the school nurse can perform an inspection of the student's clothing and other belongings (including: hat, shoes, jacket, backpack, and school supplies).
- c. Without drawing significant attention to the student, check the areas where the student sits or affected belongings may be placed for extended periods of time.
- d. Try to collect specimens for positive identification. **Keep specimens as intact as possible.**

II. If a student is believed to have brought a positively identified bed bug to school, notify the student's parent or guardian and give them the following suggestions:

- a. If the home is being rented, notify a landlord immediately, especially if an infestation is suspected.
- b. If the home is owned by the parent or guardian and an infestation is suspected, a professional pest management company should be consulted immediately.
- c. Send only essential items to school with the student.
- d. Keep school items sealed in a plastic bag or plastic storage box with a lid at home to limit the likelihood of re-infestation.
- e. Keep clean clothes sealed in a plastic storage box with a lid or trash bag until the student puts them on in the morning.

****Notification of other parents will occur if bedbugs are discovered in the classroom****

HOW TO KEEP BED BUGS OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

1. Keep the classroom, especially coat and backpack closets, as clean and free of clutter as possible.
2. Custodians should vacuum areas that students typically store their belongings in (example: coat closet) as well as the baseboards where the carpet meets the wall.
3. Custodians should dispose of vacuum bag after vacuuming.
4. Consider assigning students their own plastic bag or storage box with a tightly sealed lid. This will help keep the bed bugs on one student's belongings from infesting another student's belongings.



Bed Bugs in Schools

Guidance for School Nurses



Managing bed bugs can be a major challenge for any school. School nurses are often called upon to provide vital information to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. These tips on identifying, managing and preventing bed bugs will help you to effectively respond if bed bugs appear in your school.

If You Think You Have Spotted a Bed Bug

- Collect and keep it intact for proper identification.
- Discreetly remove the student from class but do not send him/her home or exclude them from school.
- Check the student's clothing and belongings for possible bed bugs.
- Inspect the area around where the bug was found.

Have a Positive Bed Bug ID?

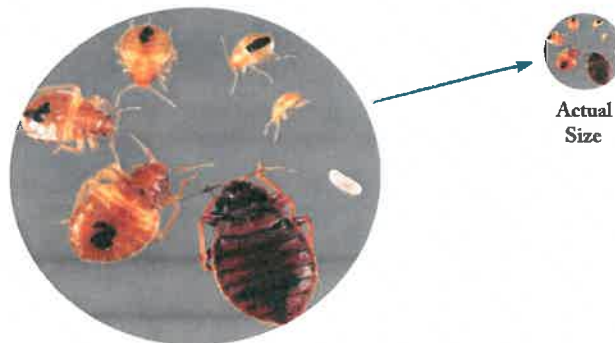
- Oversee the case until the problem is resolved.
- Tell the child's parents about the bed bug sighting.
- Provide the student and parents with information on bed bug control.

What to Tell Parents

- Having a bed bug infestation does not mean their home isn't clean.
- A true bed bug infestation is unlikely in the school.
- It is not necessary for the school to close because of bed bugs.
- Students should limit the items they bring to school.
- Students should store school supplies in protective boxes at home and not under or near beds or couches.

Successful Bed Bug Management

- Uses a combination of strategies such as prevention, inspection, vacuuming, steam/heat treatment, and, if needed, pesticides.
- Recognizes that pesticides alone may not eliminate bed bugs.
- Involves placing clothes in a dryer on high heat for at least 30 minutes to kill any bed bugs.
- May include professional steam or radiant heat treatments.



Bed Bug Hot Spots in Schools

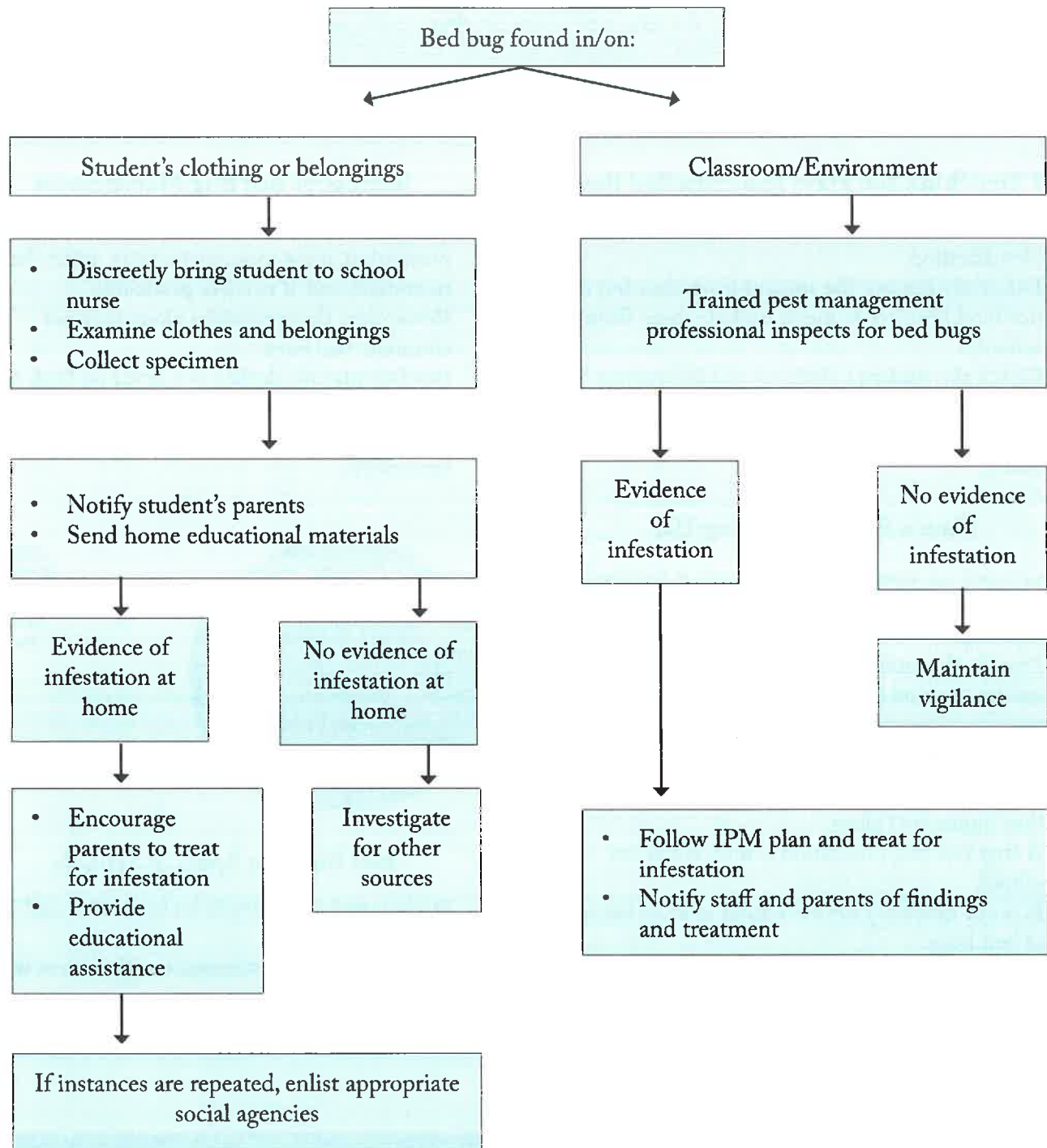
- Student and staff closets, lockers, coats and backpacks.
- Faculty lounges, classrooms or other areas with upholstered furniture or cots.
- Dormitories or other sleeping areas.

Finding a confirmed bed bug on a student or their belongings may not mean their home or school is infested.

Learn more at epa.gov/bedbugs

School Response Flowchart

(adapted from [Michigan Bed Bug Working Group](#))





Bed Bugs in Schools

Guidance for Administrators, Teachers and Staff



Bed bugs can hitchhike into your school creating challenges for administrators, teachers and facility managers. Education and preparation are the formula for success in dealing with bed bugs. Learn what your school can do to prepare and respond to the bed bug challenge.

Develop a Plan

Develop a school-specific written bed bug action plan in advance of any problems. It should include specific procedures and responsibilities for responding to bed bug sightings, incidents, and suspected bites. Proactive monitoring, early detection, and prompt response can avoid larger, more costly problems.

A school is not an ideal place for bed bugs, but it can serve as a hub for their travel to other locations, including homes.

Educate Everyone

Bed bugs are brought into buildings on personal belongings. Anyone can bring in bed bugs. The key is to educate the entire school community by teaching the administration, maintenance and custodial staff, faculty, support staff, students and parents about:

- Basic bed bug biology, identification and habits;
- Roles and responsibilities regarding bed bug control;
- The school district's philosophy about being proactive on bed bug issues;
- Actions needed to reduce the risk of bed bugs spreading; and
- Who to contact with questions.

Let Parents and Guardians Know

- The school recognizes there is a national bed bug resurgence, and the district has a bed bug action plan.
- They play an important role in keeping the school bed bug free.
- They should advise the school if bed bugs are found in their home.

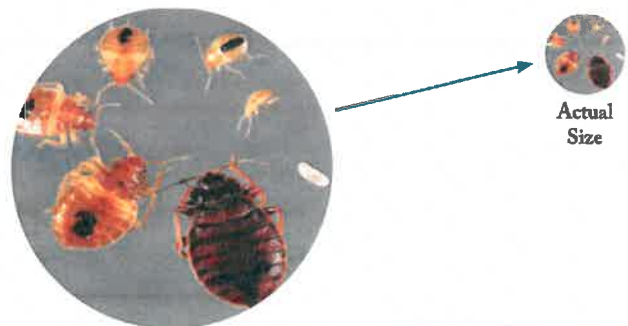
Things to Avoid

- Over reacting - a sighting does not necessarily mean an infestation.
- Closing school - there is usually no need to close the school or to send students home.
- Stigmatizing or excluding students who you suspect may have brought bed bugs to school.
- Immediate pesticide applications - pesticides may not be needed to achieve control, so review your school's pest control program and work with your pest control provider.

Students and Bed Bugs

- Discreetly take students to the school nurse for inspection of their clothing and belongings.
- School health professionals should manage the case, including re-inspecting belongings, desks and classrooms until the problem is resolved.
- Isolate student belongings in tight-sealing containers or plastic bags in the nurse's office to reduce the chance of bed bugs spreading while the problem is being resolved.

Identification is Key!



Pesticides used in schools must:

- Comply with state and local IPM and pesticide notification laws/regulations.
- Be applied only by appropriately licensed applicators.
- Be labeled for use against bed bugs and applied according to label directions.

Prevention

- Avoid storing students' jackets, backpacks, and other personal items in close contact with each other.
- Limit items students transport back and forth to school.
- Regularly reduce the classroom clutter and remove cardboard.
- Store teaching aids in clear, lidded boxes.
- Seal crevices and utility conduits.

Inspection

- Use a strong flashlight and magnifying glass when conducting bed bug inspections.
- Regularly inspect clothing, backpacks, boxes, lockers, and desks.
- Have rooms with repeated bed bug sightings inspected by a pest management professional or other trained staff.
- Check faculty lounges, offices and the nurse's office, as spaces with upholstered furniture or cots may become infested
- Pay close attention to child care facilities, nap areas, and handicapped equipment - these may be bed bug hot spots.

Management

- Use control tactics consistent with your school's integrated pest management plan and state/local regulations.
- Vacuum to remove bed bugs from cracks and crevices in furniture, equipment, walls, and floors.
- Put items in a dryer at high temperature for 30 minutes to kill bed bugs.
- Use other non-chemical approaches to eliminate bed bugs such as steam or heat treatment, sanitation, and trapping.
- If pesticides are needed, ensure that they are labelled for use against bed bugs, applied according to label directions by a licensed applicator, and that your school complies with all state pesticide laws.

