

New Story Schools of Ohio: Bed Bug Procedure for School

Introduction: This bed bug policy has been established in accordance with guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Revised Code Section 3707.26 to effectively manage and prevent bed bug infestations within our school premises.

Identification and Reporting:

1. **Identification:** Staff members will be trained to recognize signs of bed bug infestations, including live bugs, shed skins, and fecal stains. If a suspected bed bug infestation is identified, the school nurse or designated personnel will conduct a thorough inspection of the area.
2. **Reporting:** Any suspected bed bug sightings must be reported immediately to the school administration. Staff members, students, and parents/guardians are encouraged to report sightings promptly to facilitate timely intervention.

Response and Treatment:

1. **Verification:** Upon receiving a report of a suspected bed bug sighting, the school administration will promptly verify the presence of bed bugs through visual inspection or by consulting with a licensed pest control professional.
2. **Notification:** If bed bugs are confirmed to be present in the school premises, parents/guardians of affected students and staff members will be notified of the situation. Notification will include information about the steps being taken to address the infestation and any precautions recommended to prevent further spread.
3. **Treatment:** Professional pest control services will be engaged to eradicate the bed bug infestation using methods approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in compliance with relevant state and federal regulations. Treatment may include insecticide application, heat treatment, or other appropriate measures as recommended by the pest control professional.
4. **Follow-up:** Following treatment, the school administration will conduct regular follow-up inspections to ensure that the infestation has been effectively eliminated. Additional treatments may be scheduled if necessary to achieve complete eradication.

Prevention and Education:

1. **Preventive Measures:** The school will implement preventive measures to minimize the risk of bed bug infestations, including regular cleaning and maintenance of facilities, sealing cracks and crevices, and educating staff, students, and parents/guardians about bed bug awareness and prevention strategies.
2. **Education:** Informational materials about bed bugs, including signs of infestation, prevention tips, and recommended actions in case of suspected infestation, will be provided to staff, students, and parents/guardians on a regular basis.

Confidentiality and Privacy: All reports of bed bug sightings and related information will be handled with confidentiality and sensitivity. Personal information of individuals affected by bed bug infestations will be kept private to the extent possible, in compliance with applicable privacy laws and regulations.

Compliance: This bed bug policy is established to ensure compliance with CDC guidelines, the Ohio Revised Code, and other relevant regulations governing pest management and public health within school settings.

Review and Revision: This bed bug policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Any necessary revisions will be made based on changes in regulations, best practices, or emerging trends in bed bug management.

Conclusion: By implementing this bed bug policy, our school is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, and visitors. Together, we can effectively manage and prevent bed bug infestations, safeguarding the well-being of our school community.