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 bug intact for proper identification by placing bug in a ziplock plastic bag.
- 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.

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. Facilities Pest Management will determine the need for pest mgmt.

Students and Bed Bugs

- Discreetly take students to the school nurse for inspection of their clothing and belongings.
- School nurses should manage the care of the involved student(s) found to have bed bugs, including re-inspecting belongings.
- Custodial staff will manage the inspections of the desks and classrooms until the problem is resolved.
- Isolate ONLY the belongings of the student (with bed bugs) in a tight-sealing container or clear plastic bag in their locker, nurse's office, or a closet to reduce the chance of bedbugs spreading while the problem is being resolved.

Identification is Key!

Have a Positive Bed Bug ID?

- Oversee the case until the problem is resolved.
- Notify the parents of the student found with bed bugs on their belongings.
- Provide the student and parents with information on bed bug control.

What to Tell Parents of a Student Found with Bed Bugs on Their Belongings

- 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 neccessary for the school to close because of bed bugs.
- Students should store school supplies in protective boxes at home and not under or near beds or couches.

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
**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.

**Management**

- 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.

**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.

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**School Response Flowchart**

- **Bed bug found in/on:**
  - **Student’s clothing or belongings**
    - Discreetly bring student to school nurse
    - Examine clothes and belongings
    - Collect specimen
    - Notify the parents of student found with bed bugs
    - Send home educational materials - Bed Bug Tips Document
  - **Evidence of infestation at home**
    - Encourage parents to treat for infestation
    - Provide educational assistance
    - If instances are repeated, enlist appropriate social agencies
  - **Classroom/Environment**
    - Office staff submits a Facilities work request for Pest Management Inspection
    - **Evidence of infestation**
      - Follow IPM plan and treat for infestation
      - Notify building staff of findings and treatment and any recommendations
    - **No evidence of infestation**
      - Investigate for other sources
      - Custodian maintains vigilance

Learn more at [epa.gov/bedbugs](http://epa.gov/bedbugs)