

Topic:	Bed Bugs in Board Owned Facilities
Effective:	May 2016
Revision Date:	May 2018
Review Date:	May 2021
Responsibility:	Superintendent of Facilities Services

INTENDED PURPOSE:

To provide a consistent practice for awareness, identification and response to the presence of bed bugs in board owned facilities.

PREAMBLE:

In general, schools and institutional child care centers are not conducive to bed bug infestations. Bed bugs prefer an environment where they can hide during the day and come out at night to feed on a sleeping host. As most schools and child care centers do not provide this type of environment, major infestations are rare. Bed bugs may hide in clothing, backpacks, purses, briefcases, and suitcases. Bed bugs can hitchhike to and from schools and child care centers from various public locations as well as private residences.

Schools and child care centers with napping infants and toddlers may provide the type of environment suitable to support a bed bug population. If children in this type of setting are experiencing skin conditions that might be associated with bed bug bites, it may be necessary to investigate the school or child care setting.

About Bed Bugs

- Small biting insects that have a broad oval shape and no wings
- Bedbugs in all stages of life are visible to the naked eye. Adult bed bugs are about the size and shape of an apple seed and a reddish brown colour
- Young bed bugs (nymphs) are smaller and lighter in colour
- Eggs are whitish, pear-shaped, and about the size of a pinhead. Clusters of 10-50 eggs can be found on surfaces, cracks and crevices
- Bed bugs are NOT a health risk as there is no evidence they spread disease

Where Bed Bugs Are Found

- Bed bugs do not fly or jump. They crawl and hitch rides on clothing, books, backpacks, lunch bags and other fabric material
- Bed bugs like to hide in dark cracks and crevices, storage areas, lockers, coat room, fabric upholstered furniture and beds

Early Detection and Prevention

- Regular monitoring at home (by parents) and at school is the best way to prevent bed bugs from becoming a problem in schools. Signs to look for include:
 - Bite marks on a person's skin, often several bites in a straight line
 - Bed bugs' exoskeletons after molting
 - Rusty-coloured blood spots on mattress or nearby furniture
 - Clusters of whitish, pear-shaped eggs about the size of a pinhead
 - Bed bug nymphs or adults
- Limit unnecessary cloth items being brought from home to school such as blankets, pillows and dress-up clothes

- Do not bring discarded or donated upholstered furniture into the school
- Minimize clutter
- Keep lost and found areas, furniture and bookcases clean
- Minimize the number of personal items you bring into the school. You may wish to store these items (ie. coat, handbag, briefcase) in sealed plastic containers or plastic bags

Photos

Bed Bug Bites



Bed Bug Nymph



Adult Bed Bug



Additional Resources

[Centre for Disease Control - -Bed Bug FAQ](#)

[Halton Region - Bed Bugs Fact Sheet](#)

PROCEDURES:

The confidentiality and dignity of students, parents/guardians and staff who may have introduced bed bugs into the school environment will be respected. The Halton District School Board recognizes the discovery of bed bugs in a school or on a person can result in discomfort and embarrassment for many.

If bed bugs are found on a person, belongings, or Board property, take the following steps:

Response Plan – for Students:

If a student is suspected of having **bed bug bites**:

- Immediately contact the student's parents/guardians and tell them that staff suspect that their child has bed bug bites
- Provide the family with educational material or direct them to the Region of Halton website
- Search the school for any other signs of bed bugs

If a suspected bed bug is found on a student or in the school:

- If the suspected bed bug was found on a student or is/her belongings, meet with the student privately, away from other students, so staff can examine the students clothing and personal items for bed bugs
- Put any bugs you find in a sealed container or bag for identification
- Contact the Field Supervisor to arrange for a licensed pest control company, or the Region of Halton Health Unit, to identify the bugs. **Staff must ensure the insects that are found are bed bugs**

If it is confirmed that bed bugs are in the school:

- Treatment for a possible bed bug infestation is required when more than one type of evidence of bed bugs is found in the school (ie. seeing actual bugs, molted exoskeletons, droppings, or dried blood spots)
- Notify parents and all staff that bed bugs at the school are confirmed. **You must maintain confidentiality. Do not share the names of any students, families or staff that may or may not have brought the bed bugs into the school**
- Provide educational materials to all families and staff or direct them to the Region of Halton website
- Ask parents to limit the belongings students bring into the school such as blankets and stuffed animals
- Inspect other belongings, such as backpacks and clothing, before the child enters the classroom
- If mattresses are used in the school, consider sealing the mattresses with bed-bug-proof mattress covers
- After the school has been treated for bed bugs, the facility must continue to be monitored for any signs of bed bugs, This is to ensure the treatment worked and to prevent a reoccurrence
- **Students should not be excluded from school or removed from their classrooms due to bed bugs. If repeated efforts have been made to remedy and infestation, an increase in monitoring and screening may occur.**

Response Plan – for School Facility:

School and Child Care Centre Staff:

1. Capture the bed bug if possible and store the bug in a clear, watertight container with 70% alcohol (e.g. rubbing alcohol) to kill and preserve it for identification by a professional.
2. Note area where the bed bug was found.
3. Promptly notify the school Principal.

The Principal:

1. Immediately notify the Field Supervisor of suspected case of bed bugs.
2. Await inspection by Facilities Services (generally a response within 48 hours).
3. If inspection confirms a case of bedbugs, continue with steps 4-9 below.
4. If confirmed bed bug was found on a student, notify the parent/guardian of the bed bug presence on their child. Provide the family with educational materials.
5. If confirmed bed bugs require treatment, contact Field Supervisor to determine the treatment plan in consultation with the pest control company.
6. Notify all staff of the treatment plan being implemented at the school.
7. Prepare a letter to parents about confirmed bed bugs and the plan for treatment. If assistance is required, contact the Manager of Communication Services.
8. Consult Region of Halton Health Unit when seeking to address specific concerns or requiring additional resources and supports.

Field Supervisor:

1. In consultation with the Principal, determine if an assessment by a qualified pest control company is required.
2. Coordinate and manage a treatment plan in accordance with any findings.
3. Monitor and conduct follow-up until presence of bed bugs has been eliminated.
4. Communicate all findings and treatment plan to the Principal and Caretaker.

5. Notify Facilities Services, Principal and School Superintendent if a large-scale facility treatment is required.

Caretaking Staff:

1. If requested by Principal or Field Supervisor, inspect any areas where there is a possible presence of bed bugs.
2. Immediately communicate inspection findings with the Principal and Field Supervisor.
3. If treatment is required, follow procedures as directed by the Field Supervisor in conjunction with the pest control company so the company can begin the treatment protocol.

About Classroom Treatment

A case of bed bugs must be confirmed before treatment, which will vary depending on:

- The number of bed bugs that are found
- The presence of eggs
- The capture of a live bug for inspection
- The amount of clutter in the room and the contents of the room