

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BED BUGS AND SCHOOL:

Bed bugs are becoming a common problem that can significantly impact those dealing with an infestation. There are no diseases transmitted from bed bugs. Any home can be infested by bed bugs, regardless of sex, race or economic status. All children and families must be treated with dignity and respect when addressing this issue.

GUIDELINES

- Collect specimens thought to be bed bugs (may use tape, tissue or gauze). If caught with clear tape, attach the specimen to a sheet of white paper. Place the specimen securely in a small plastic ziplock bag or bag sealed with tape. Avoid crushing the bug and do not staple the bag.
- Report the suspected bed bug to the Principal whom in turn will contact the Director of Custodial Services. An action plan will be discussed and implemented based on the need.
- The Principal and/or School Nurse will maintain the suspected specimen to turn over to the Pest Control Technician. (Note: Suspected bed bugs cannot be identified with pictures and must be dead to analyze. The bagged specimen may be stored in the freezer in the health office until it is collected).
- If a specimen is found on a student, please discreetly remove them from the classroom so that the school nurse or a qualified individual can examine the students clothing and other belongings.
- **Students are not to be excluded from school if a specimen is found on them, but the parents do need to be notified.**
- Students' belongings may be stored in plastic container with a lid or a tall plastic waste container. A plastic bag can be used (less preferable), but the bag needs to be discarded after use.
- **Remember that finding a suspected or confirmed bed bug on a student or their belongings does not necessarily mean the child's household or the school is infested.**

ACTION PLAN FOR A CONFIRMED BED BUG

- If the impacted area has carpeting, Custodial staff will thoroughly vacuum the area during the end-of-day cleaning routine. Custodial staff will discard the vacuum bag in a tightly sealed garbage bag (or for bag free vacuums, empty contents of vacuum into a plastic garbage bag and tightly seal for disposal).
- Custodial staff and/or school staff are to log suspected location (room #, etc) of suspected bug on the "Pest Sightings log sheet" which is stored either in the principal's office or custodial office.

- **If the decision is made to apply pesticides at the school for the control or prevention of bed bugs, the Director of Operations will coordinate such services through the Pest Control vendor contracting with the school at the time.** (Untrained employees are not allowed to apply pesticides on school property. By law, only licensed applicators can apply pesticides (even ready to use products like sprays) in schools, and in compliance with the schools Integrated Pest Management Policy.