

Dear Parents,

With students traveling through the building daily, specifically with belongings from home, schools have an increased risk of bed bugs. We are not currently dealing with an infestation, however, we worked with pest professionals to provide you with some tips to prevent bed bugs from coming home with you.

Keep in mind that bed bugs are not a sign of unhealthy living conditions. They start infestations by hitchhiking onto belongings like coats and backpacks after being picked up from busses, movie theatres, waiting areas, and more.

- Regularly inspect your child's items before and after they go to school. Look for the presence of tiny 1mm, pale insects, tiny white eggs, shed insect skins, blood stains, or specks of black feces. Pay close attention to cracks, creases, and pockets as bed bugs often prefer dark, tight spaces.
- Keep school items in an isolated area of your home or sealed in a plastic tote. Do periodic inspections for bed bugs in these areas.
- Consider placing these items like coats and backpacks in the dryer for 30 minutes to eliminate any existing bed bugs. Consider doing this monthly.
- Keep home free of clutter to assist in locating infestations and limiting hiding spots.
- Consider getting bed bug encasements for pillows, mattresses, and box springs.
- Consider getting bed bug interceptors to place on the legs of beds and furniture to prevent bed bugs from climbing up onto furniture.
- Maintain good communication with your student's teacher(s) and the school.

Be aware that Bed Bugs are extremely difficult to eliminate and that DIY/ Over-the-counter products are rarely effective. In fact, bed bugs can become resistant to the pesticides and other harmful chemicals. Therefore, trying to kill these bugs with DIY solutions can make them stronger and harder to kill. In addition, an untrained person using these chemicals can risk your family's health. It is best to seek the aid of a pest management professional for this difficult problem. They have many resources at their disposal and the education necessary to prevent bed bugs from eluding treatment.

Most importantly, please inform the school of any signs of pest activity. The earlier an issue is discovered, the quicker we can resolve the problem.

Protect your home from a bed bug infestation

