INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Bed Bug Prevention and Action Plan

Policy O-67

Bed bugs have become a re-emerging problem in the United States due to increased international travel and resistance to commonly used pesticides. They do not transmit disease, but individuals who live in infected homes suffer from lack of sleep, anxiety and secondary skin infections resulting from the itching bites.

Bed bugs are very difficult to control, and it's recommended that all infestations are handled by a licensed and trained professional who can develop an integrated pest management plan. Often multiple treatments are needed to effectively treat an infestation in the home environment. Bed bugs are not a factor of the cleanliness of the environment; they affect everyone equally.

Bed bugs are more likely to feed during the night-time hours and reside in places where people sleep, potentially making the ISBVI dormitories vulnerable areas. While infestations of school buildings are uncommon, bed bugs may "hitch-hike" on a student's clothing, books or backpack from an infested home.

A review of publications from various schools of entomology and the state department suggests that schools take the following actions when dealing with potential bed bug infestation in the home of a student or on the school property. It is not recommended to exclude students from school for an infestation in the home; therefore, at ISBVI students will NOT be excluded for this issue. Also, school closure related to bed bugs is not recommended during an infestation, unless extenuating circumstances occur.

Prevention

Clutter Removal

Clutter provides many hiding places for bed bugs. With many hiding places, a bed bug population is almost guaranteed to survive in a cluttered environment even after the most aggressive treatment. Take proactive measures to reduce clutter in classrooms, dormitories and other areas.

Contain Bed Bug Introductions

There is no way of preventing bed bugs from being brought to school, but there is the possibility of containing bed bugs once they arrive. Clear plastic storage containers and large plastic trash bags may be used to store backpacks, lunch containers, coats and other cold weather gear while the student is in the classroom. Make sure to label containers or bags with student's name.

Inspection and Reporting Action Plan

If a Bed Bug is Found or Suspected to be on a Student

If a bed bug is found on a student or his/her belongings, it is important to discretely remove the student to a nearby area (also discrete), to place their belongings in a plastic bag and the bed bug in a sealed zip lock

bag. Once this is completed, the student will be escorted, with their belongings in the plastic bag, to the Health Center.

At the Health Center

A nurse will examine the student's clothing and other belongings. If the nurse determines there is reason to believe the student has a bed bug infestation, bed bugs will be placed in a sealed zip lock bag and all belongings will be placed in a secure area until they can be safely moved. The student will be provided with a change of clothing and their bagged clothing will be placed in an available dryer at high temperature for thirty minutes. (This should kill any bugs).

The student's parents/guardians will be notified that a bug was found on the student's belongings and recommend a home inspection by a licensed professional.

After the clothes are heat treated, the student will change back into their clothes and return to the classroom, dormitory or activity.

The student will be discreetly examined by the health center staff for three consecutive days to determine if infestation has continued.

The Health Center staff will notify the Superintendent and all Division Directors of the situation. The Health Center Staff will inform the maintenance supervisor and team, who will inspect suspected areas and report back to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will then make the decision on when/whether to contact a professional pest control service or utilize other/additional remediation strategies.

Students must not be present in the area of the school while treatment is being applied. Treatment areas must be vacant for 48 hours post treatment.

Information provided to parents will include;

- treatment of bites, control of the infestation and the need to use a professional exterminator service in home;
- instruction on actions that can be taken to reduce the spread of bed bugs to the school environment;
- the need to launder items worn outside the home first with dry heat for 30 minutes followed by washing in hot water and drying again in high heat;
- the need to store freshly washed clothing and other items taken to school, such as lunch boxes and coats, in a sealed clear plastic bin or garbage bag until the student needs to take them outside the home again;
- and the value of routine cleaning of all hard surfaces with normal cleaning solutions.

Summary

There is a distinct possibility that bed bugs can be brought to school on the clothing or belongings of an individual. It is important to not over-react and realize that a bug brought to school does not mean the building is infested. ISBVI is prepared to prevent and treat infestations, and to educate students, families and staff.

References:

Indiana State Department of Health: https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/school_guidance_on_bed_bugs.pdf

Bed Bug Action Plans for Schools: https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/bb-schools1.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): https://www.cdc.gov/

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ISBVI Superintendent: _____ _____
Date

ISBVI Board Chair: _____ _____
Date