

BEDBUGS

The District will follow the recommendations of the Oklahoma State Department of Health regarding integrated pest management (IPM) plan when a school may be infested with bedbugs.

Bedbug infestations in schools are uncommon because bedbugs are nocturnal and hide during the day in bedding and mattresses. Bedbugs do not carry diseases. However, when children are bitten, they may experience significant itchiness, sleeplessness and anxiety.

If a suspected bedbug is found on a student or student's belongings, the following procedures should be followed:

- A. The student should be discreetly removed from the classroom so that the school nurse or a qualified individual can examine the student's clothing and other belongings. Any bugs found should be removed and collected for identification.
- B. If a confirmed bedbug was found on a student, then the school principal or nurse should contact the student's parents or guardian to inform them of the bedbug presence on their child and provide the parent with educational resources on how to treat their home.
- C. Students will not be sent home upon the sighting of a bedbug. Instead, the student will be provided a change in clothing while the items they wore to school (including backpacks, lunchboxes, or other items) will be placed in tight sealing containers or plastic bags to reduce the spread of the bedbugs or placed in a dryer on the highest temperature for 30 minutes to kill bedbugs.
- D. If bedbugs have been found repeatedly in a particular classroom, then the IPM plan will be put into place, as well as a parent notification letter will be sent home to the affected class or classes.