RSU No. 10 Bed Bug Protocols

Bed bugs do not transmit disease, but they can cause significant itchiness, anxiety, and sleeplessness. Bed bug infestations are also very difficult and expensive to control. Usually, bed bugs will hide during the day and only come out to feed during the night. Unlike head lice, they do not live on a person. Actual bed bug infestations in schools are uncommon. More commonly, a few bed bugs will hitchhike to school from an infested home by hiding in student's clothing or a backpack. Bed bugs that hitch a ride into the school in one student's backpack could be carried home by another student. Bed bugs can crawl onto or off of a person (or their belongings) at any time, so it is also possible that the bed bug was brought to school by someone else

All Maine schools are required under Maine law to have an integrated pest management (IPM) policy in place. If a bed bug infestation is suspected the school administrator should contact the district IPM Coordinator (RSU #10 Director of Building Grounds and Transportation) who can contact a licensed pest control professional for assistance.

If a suspected bed bug is found on a student or a student's belongings or a parent notifies the school of a possible infestation, the following procedures should be followed:

- The student should be discreetly removed from the classroom so the school nurse or a qualified individual can examine the student's clothing and other belongings in a private setting.
- Any bugs found should be removed and collected for identification in a small clear container. Try to keep the specimens as intact as possible.
- Administrator/school nurse will contact the student's parents by phone. A bed bug inspection report letter and educational materials will be sent home with the student.
- If bed bugs are confirmed the school will work with parents in developing strategies to prevent the further spread of bed bugs (following Maine CDC guidelines).
- Students should not be excluded from school due to bed bugs unless repeated efforts have been made to remedy an infestation.
- Building administrator/school nurse contacts the Director of Building, Grounds & Transportation/or designee.
- The Director of Building, Grounds & Transportation will record the event in the IPM logbook and contact a licensed pest control professional for assistance to evaluate and act on the situation.
- The administrator/school nurse will follow-up with the parent within five days to review response actions of the bed bug inspection form.
- At the discretion of the Superintendent the Director of Building, Grounds & Transportation/designee may contact local agencies for assistance.

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