

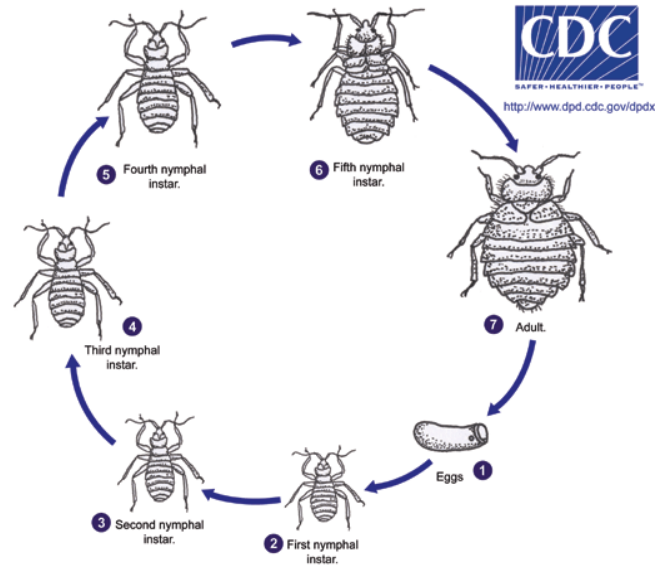


Dear Parents,

The safety and wellness of our students is a top priority.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Office of Student Health and Wellness offers a variety of direct services to meet the health needs and requirements of students and their families. In addition to helping families meet physical examinations and immunization requirements that enable children to attend school, health services provided through the dental examination, vision and hearing screening, vision examination programs help children and families address health-related barriers to learning.



WHAT ARE BED BUGS?

Bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*) are small, flat, parasitic insects that feed solely on the blood of people and animals while they sleep. Bed bugs are reddish-brown in color, wingless, range from 1mm to 7mm (roughly the size of Lincoln's head on a penny), and can live several months without a meal. Bed bug infestations usually occur near the areas where people sleep. They hide inside cracks, crevices, and clutter. Bed bugs tend to live within 8 feet of where people sleep.

To learn more about bed bugs infestations in the City of Chicago and what you can do visit Chicago Department of Public Health at https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/healthy_homes/svcs/bed-bugs.html

DO BED BUGS SPREAD DISEASE?

Bed bugs are not known to spread disease. Sometimes the itching can lead to excessive scratching that can sometimes increase the chance of a secondary skin infection. A bed bug bite affects each person differently. Bed bugs are not considered to be dangerous; however, an allergic reaction to several bites may need medical attention.

WHAT SHOULD A SCHOOL DO IF IT SUSPECTS BED BUGS?

If you suspect a case of bed bugs within the school, the first step would be to contact your IPM Contractor and request an inspection. Your IPM contractor can verify whether or not there is a bed bug problem and can help you to determine a course of action. If you suspect a case of bed bugs involving a student follow the following protocol:

- Contact your Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



contractor.

- If you find actual insect(s) please collect a sample for the IPM representative to examine.
- An IPM representative will visit the school to provide an inspection.
- Respectfully ask the affected student(s) to visit the office and inspect clothing and other belongings.
- Please do not exclude the student(s) as treatment may take a number of days. Belongings like bags, coats, etc. can be stored in a covered plastic container while school is in session.
- Contact the student's parent/guardian and inform of your findings.
 - If a student has visible bites/rash/etc., refer to their healthcare provider.
 - Call 311 to locate the nearest healthcare provider.
- A sample letter, script, and fact sheet may be shared with parents/guardians if the IPM confirms the insect(s) as a bed bug.

To assist the parent/guardian in their home setting, you may want to inform the parents/guardians of the below resources:

- For renters, there is a new Ordinance in the City of Chicago that requires landlords to hire a professional to inspect and treat (if necessary) or face penalties. Contact your landlord to request an inspection or call '311' and file a complaint if your landlord is unresponsive.
- See the Illinois Department of Public Health for more information at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/structural-pest-control/bed-bugs>