



Otterville R-VI School District

101 W. Georgetown Street Otterville, MO 65348 Fax: 660-366-4293

Kim Oelrichs
Superintendent
660-366-4391

Scott Gemes
Principal
660-366-4621

October 25, 2018

Dear Parents,

The health and safety of our Otterville students is one of our first priorities. We became aware of a health concern this morning as we found evidence the Pre-School room has been exposed to bed bugs. It is believed the exposure is isolated to the Pre-School. We have taken quick action to address the concerns and are taking steps to reduce future exposure to various contagions. Here are measures we are taking:

- We have professional exterminators who will provide treatment to exposed areas this afternoon.
- The room will have a thorough and deep clean after treatment.
- Students' personal items will be isolated in individual plastic bags and will be sent home for cleaning.
- Moving forward, Pre-School students' personal items will be stored in plastic bags in the classroom to limit future exposure.
- The exposed areas will be monitored and retreated based on recommendation from the exterminator.

Should additional recommendations related to this exposure be provided by health and/or extermination professionals, we will address and share those recommendations with you.

We are providing information with this letter from the Department of Health and Human Services on treatment, prevention and control of bed bugs.

Sincerely,

Kim Oelrichs
Superintendent

“Where Eagles Soar”

BED BUGS

PROVIDER

TREATMENT A healthcare provider may recommend an antihistamine or corticosteroid to reduce allergic reaction and inflammation due to bed bug bites. Bed bugs are not known to spread any diseases.

PREVENTION/CONTROL

- DO NOT bring infested items into the home. **Carefully** inspect clothing and baggage after traveling. Pay attention to cracks, crevices, seams, and folds of suitcases and luggage.
- Use caution when buying used furniture. Inspect all furniture and avoid buying used bed mattresses and bed frames. Taking free furniture items left by the curb for disposal or behind places of business is not recommended.
- After confirming a bed bug infestation in the home, **consult a licensed pest control operator who has experience with bed bugs before beginning any control activities.** (Tenants should contact their property manager or landlord to discuss their respective obligations and to agree on a plan to manage the infestation.)
- Control plans will be made on a case by case basis; the control plan may include the following activities:
 - Reduce clutter to limit the hiding places for bed bugs.
 - Thoroughly clean infested rooms - vacuum carpets, upholstered furniture, bed mattresses, bed frames, etc. It may be necessary to move and disassemble furniture during cleaning.
 - Wash all bedding and affected clothing in hot water and dry in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes before using again.
 - Caulk or seal all holes in ceilings, walls, and around baseboards.
 - Various insecticide (chemicals that kill insects) treatments may be needed. The insecticides available are commercial products requiring special equipment and training and are not readily available in "over-the-counter" products. **Insecticides should be applied by a licensed pest control operator.**
- DO NOT apply any insecticides to bed mattresses or on bedding or linens. Work with a certified pest control operator to determine how insecticides will be used and applied in your residence. Insecticide treatments may require you to leave your home for a few hours or even several days. Several treatments may be needed to fully control the problem.

For more information, call Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) Bureau of Environmental Health Services at 573-751-6095 or 866-628-9891 (8-5 Monday thru Friday) or call your local health department.

For more information about bedbugs, refer to University of Missouri's Extension Office website at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G7396>.

"Where Eagles Soar"