

# Bed Bugs

## Bed Bugs

### **On One Hand: Bedbugs Don't Spread Disease**

Bedbugs feed on the blood of mammals, including humans, but there is no proof that they spread disease from one person to another. They may create an infestation that spreads to everyone in the workplace, which would then result in at-home infestations as well. This is an extremely costly endeavor for anyone who has to treat an infestation.

### **On the Other: Employers Must Provide a Safe Environment**

If we discover that you are carrying bedbugs, we will ask you to leave the facility to prevent an infestation. Fumigating to get rid of bedbugs can be expensive, and by sending you home, we are saving the company an unwanted expense. We have to take the entire company's well-being into consideration.

Bottom Line, even though bedbugs are not known to spread disease, infestations occur when bedbugs travel from one place to another. In the best interest of the company and the others employed in the building, an employer may prohibit an employee from working if they have bedbugs to maintain a safe, healthy work environment.

Bed bugs and other pests sometimes elicit fear and panic in people.

## Policy Statements to Minimize the Spread and Impact of Bed Bugs

Your belongings must be free of bed bugs, or you must be willing to rid your belongings of bed bugs. This will prevent the introduction of bed bugs into our facility.

You may not bring into this facility items collected from the street, discarded items, donated furniture. With the increased number of bed bug cases, items on the streets are much more likely to contain bedbugs (the reason for being discarded). Therefore it is not safe to bring discarded or abandoned items into our facility.

If you have possibly been exposed to bed bugs, or suspect that you may have bed bug bites, you must tell your supervisor. - Early detection and management is very important for the control of bed bugs. As bed bugs increase rapidly.

If we see bed bug bites on you, you will be sent home and the County Board Service & Support Administrator will be notified and a plan of action put into place by your “team” of support.

In general if we see any bugs crawling on your person we will send you home and notify the County Board Service and Support Administrator to put a plan of action into place. Anyone is uncomfortable working around crawling bugs that have the potential to bite, carry a disease or cause an infestation in their home.

No staff or individual enrolled in our programs will be allowed to remain in the facility with an active infestation on their person or belongings coming into the facility. This policy is in keeping with the general business practices and mandated expectations that employers keep as safe and healthy environment as possible with the diligence required for success.

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