

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We recently found a confirmed bed bug in your child's school. Bed bugs are a nuisance, but they are not known to cause or spread disease. They are usually active at night when they feed on blood. The bite is initially painless, but it may become swollen and itch, much like a mosquito bite. If you have concerns for you or your child, you should call your doctor.

The source of bed bugs often cannot be determined, as they may be found in many places, including hotels, airplanes, buses, hospitals, department stores and movie theaters. Finding a bed bug does not mean that our school building is infested. Bed bugs are often unknowingly brought into the school by building occupants and as a result we may have future sightings.

Even though it is unlikely for bed bugs to reproduce and spread in schools, the Department of Education will continue to work to identify pests, provide thorough inspections of schools and have licensed pest control specialists treat rooms as appropriate.

If you have experienced them in your home, we strongly recommend seeking professional assistance from a qualified pest control company.

For further assistance on preventing bed bugs, please see:

- NYC Department of Health's "Preventing and Getting Rid of Bed Bugs Safely" brochure: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/vector/bed-bug-guide.pdf>
- NYC Department of Health's Vector Surveillance and Control bed bug website: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/vector/vector-faq1.shtml>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) bed bug information website: <http://www.epa.gov/bedbugs/>

If you have any questions regarding bed bugs, please call 311 for additional help.

Sincerely,
Principal