



Frequently Asked Questions about Bed Bugs

- **I have books from the library, should I be concerned?**

We recommend that if you are concerned about materials you have borrowed from the library that you keep them in a plastic, zip-top bag when not in use, and not place materials on or near bedding. Presence of bed bugs affects almost all public-access buildings including schools, hospitals, churches, office buildings and more. You can minimize your contact with bed bugs by not placing personal items such as jackets and bags on the floor or soft-surface furniture in public buildings. The Clinton-Macomb Public Library is committed to actively monitoring and treating any existence of bed bugs in our locations to reduce patron contact.

- **Will the library notify me if my books may have been affected?**

Only when we have a confirmed discovery of bed bugs in a particular item will the Clinton-Macomb Public Library notify the last borrower of the findings. We will mail you a letter that documents the exact title in question to alert you.

- **Will the library close if bed bugs are found?**

Since most treatments can be done for isolated areas without affecting services and can be performed during non-business hours or in non-public spaces, we do not anticipate closing if bed bugs are discovered.

- **How is the library going to prevent more bed bugs from entering the library?**

Since we are a public building there is no definitive way to prevent bed bugs from entering any one of our buildings, facing the challenge of bed bugs is now an ongoing challenge for our three library buildings. The library will perform routine inspections of our buildings by a trained exterminator. There are heat treatment techniques we can employ for smaller batches of books that are believed to be contaminated with bed bugs and there are broader, full-scale measures as well.



- **How do I minimize my risk of exposure to bed bugs?**

The good news is that a library is not a conducive environment for bed bugs to thrive. They require a sleeping, human or animal host to feed from, and they will stay close to their food source. Without nourishment, bed bugs will not populate and spread. They are typically brought in to a library on people, on clothing, in bags, etc. All three locations of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library have a rule that bans patrons from bringing bedrolls, blankets, duffel bags, suitcases or large plastic bags into the library. We recommend patrons place personal belongings (jackets and bags) on a hard surface (avoiding the floor or on upholstered furniture if possible). If patrons are concerned about materials, keep them sealed in a plastic zip-top bag when not in use and do not place books on or near beds or bedding.



- **What if I find evidence that my library materials are affected by bed bugs?**

Immediately seal all library materials in a zip-top plastic bag and notify the location you borrowed from of the incident. You may return the materials to the library in zip-top bags and indicate upon return that you found evidence of bed bugs. **Do NOT attempt to treat library materials on your own by placing them in the microwave or oven.** There is a metal RFID tag in books that will spark and can start a fire. Do not spray library materials with pesticides. You will be held responsible for any damages sustained during a self-treatment process.

