Title	Bed Bug Prevention and Containment Policy
Policy Number	CPL-17-18
Policy Type	Operating
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Review Date	May 2027
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Purpose

The Caledon Public Library strives to prevent and contain the presence of bed bugs and their eggs in library facilities or on library materials by ensuring that library staff is aware of the prevention protocol and related procedures, by scheduling regular inspections and by periodically reviewing best practices to update and improve the protocol and procedures.

While bed bugs are not known to transmit disease to humans, they can cause significant negative effects on quality of life. Bed bugs can affect anyone, and although their presence is unrelated to hygiene habits or cleanliness, their presence does carry a social stigma. Bed bug infestations in libraries are less likely to occur, due to the lack of a food source, relative to facilities with sleeping quarters. However, libraries may be susceptible to "hitchhiker" bed bugs due to their heavy use by the general public.

Guidelines

The Caledon Public Library recognizes that having preventative measures in place, reporting all sightings, and containing and destroying bed bugs and eggs immediately, are important actions we can take toward mitigating the occurrence of bed bugs in our locations.

This operational policy outlines the procedures and practices to be followed for the containment and extermination of bed bugs found in Library facilities and materials.

As such, the Library will ensure that:

- a proactive approach that reduces the risk to staff and customers is taken;
- bed bug awareness and containment training is provided to staff on a regular basis;
- bed bug awareness resources (e.g. pamphlets, fact sheets, etc.) will be made available to staff upon request;
- current recommended best practices from public health authorities and accredited pest control agencies are reflected in related procedures;
- appropriate containment and treatment supplies will be provided and procedures activated if a suspected case is identified;

- all branches will be inspected twice annually for signs of bed bugs by an accredited pest control company;
- treatment and the cycle of inspection will be proportional to identified risks and may be adjusted based on evidence.

Caledon Public Library's reliance on and participation in shared collections between branches and with other public library systems, can make it difficult to determine the origin of any suspected cases. Efforts will be made to contain and mitigate any suspected cases and may prompt the temporary suspension of inter-branch or inter-library loans and/or receipt and delivery of new materials.