

Illini West High School

**600 Miller Street
Carthage, IL 62321
Phone: (217)357-2136
Fax: (217)357-3569
www.illiniwest.org**

**Amanda Congdon, Principal
Jay Harnack, Superintendent**

3/5/2024

Illini West High School District # 307 is informing the community of the sighting of bed bugs within a public facility. It is crucial to note that, according to the extermination team, there is **NO ACTIVE INFESTATION**. The team, in collaboration with the administration, has devised a comprehensive treatment plan, specifically targeting the area where the bed bugs were discovered. **THIS BUILDING REMAINS SAFE TO ATTEND**, and as such the district will be adhering to the attendance schedule requirements outlined in the handbook regarding extracurricular activities.

As a continuation of our preventive measures, the entire school will undergo treatment throughout the weekend, utilizing methods with residual effects. This treatment is designed to eradicate any current bed bug presence and to address the possibility of reintroduction in the next 60-90 days. Although this proactive approach significantly reduces the risk of reintroduction and subsequent cross-contamination of personal items, it's important to note that it cannot completely eliminate the potential for reintroduction and does not reduce person-to-person transfer; rather, it serves to slow down this process.

To ensure student and staff safety, the district will conduct thorough cleaning of surface areas post-treatment. We strongly advise parents and guardians to adopt safety precautions tailored to their homes. Further information on bed bugs, including safety measures, can be found in the links provided by the [EPA](https://www.epa.gov/pest-management) and [Illinois Department of Public Health](https://www.idph.state.il.us/diseases/bedbugs/). Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated as we work to maintain a healthy and safe learning environment.

Sincerely,

Amanda Congdon
Principal
Illini West High School
217-357-2136
amandacongdon@illiniwest.org

Illini West High School, in cooperation with parents and the community, will empower students to become engaged, contributing members of our school, our community, and our world.