Sedgwick County Health Department

Epidemiology Program

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**Landlord’s Guide to Preventing and Controlling Bed Bug Infestations**

There has been an explosion of bed bugs infestations in Sedgwick County in the last few years, especially in multi-family housing units.

**Know your Responsibilities**

Educate yourself on the local code enforcement regulations.

It is the landlord’s responsibility to treat for bed bugs in multi-unit housing.

Tenants have the right to move into a home free of pests.

**Talk to your Tenants**

Keep the conversations about bed bugs open and honest, fight the stigma that units with bed bugs are “dirty”. Having bed bugs does not mean a person is dirty. Bed bugs can happen to anyone, anywhere!

Provide your tenants with educational materials on how to prevent bed bugs and how to detect them early. Post educational fliers in common areas.

Encourage early reporting. The earlier you catch the infestation, the easier and less expensive it is to treat.

**Avoid Costly Infestations**

Eliminating bed bugs is costly and difficult for landlords, so prevention and early detection is very important! Early detection will ensure you are handling the problem before it gets out of control.

Learn how to identify bed bugs. (*Bed bug inspection toolkit,* *gotbugs@ksu.edu*)

When treating bed bugs, it may be tempting to choose the pest control company with the lowest price. Choose the company based on their qualifications! *This website* has a list of pest control companies who are qualified to treat bed bug infestations.

Ask your pest control company to provide a written checklist explaining to tenants how to prepare for bed bug treatment. An example checklist is provided on *website.*

Avoid using home remedies to treat your units, and never use “Bug Bombs” or “foggers”. These products cause bed bugs to flee to another unit until the coast is clear.

Be sure to follow up after treatment to ensure that the home is free of bed bugs.

**For more information and additional resources visit *website*.**