



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Graham L. Pollett, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2012 May 17

BED BUGS ONE TIME FUNDING FINAL REPORTS

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 080-12 re Bed Bugs One Time Funding Final Reports be received for information.

Background

In January 2012, the Board received Report No. 004-12 regarding Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) one-time funding, for the period June 2011 to March 2012, to address bed bug infestations. The report described how staff utilized this funding to develop a Bed Bug Resource Program for the City of London and Middlesex County. The Board approved the staff recommendation to petition the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to include bed bug funding in the base budgets of Ontario's Health Units. At the April 19, 2012 Board of Health meeting, Board members received Report No. 056-12 advising them of the Minister's response that the MOHLTC could not commit to additional bed bug funding at this time. As per the direction of the Board at the April meeting, staff members have advised the community partners involved in the Bed Bug Resource Program that the funding has now ended and Health Unit staff must reduce the level of involvement in the program.

Health Unit Follow-up Reports to MOHLTC

A Final Project Report ([Appendix A](#)) and Final Surveillance and Evaluation Report ([Appendix B](#)) were completed by the Environmental Health Team and submitted to the MOHLTC as per the requirements contained in the funding agreement. In accordance with Report No. 056-12, these two reports are attached for review by Board members.

Conclusion

With the discontinuation of bed bug funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, there are no funds available for assisting vulnerable populations to prepare for and undergo bed bug treatments. In addition, there has been a necessary corresponding reduction in staff education and promotion activities. Staff members will now be limited to responding to calls and concerns related to bed bugs on a reactive basis. In the event that bed bug funding is continued at some time in the future, health unit staff will increase involvement accordingly.

This report was prepared by Mr. Iqbal Kalsi, Manager, Environmental Health.

Graham L. Pollett, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health