

## Bed Bug Workgroup – Update 7/09

**Background:** Bed Bug infestations continue to be a growing problem around the State of Michigan, particularly in Senior Housing. The Michigan Department of Community Health organized a statewide task force to help address this growing health issue and to provide sound information and education to various groups around the state on combating this growing pest management problem. There have been several meetings since early 2008. The workgroup consists of members from the Michigan Department of Health, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University, Michigan Environmental Health Association, Michigan Pest Control Association, Wayne County Health Department, MSHDA, The Michigan Hotel Industry and the Property Management Association of Michigan. Eric Foster with the MCDH, agreed to chair the committee. The four areas assigned to the group members to research and report back include: Scientific information about Bed Bugs, Treatment Guidelines and Safe Pesticide Use, Laws and Regulations in Michigan, and Education/ Training and Communication. The workgroup meets bi-monthly in Lansing.

Our initial goal was to get information available to the various groups and residents of Michigan to provide good information about Bedbug treatment. A web page was created with information titled: “Don’t Let the Bed Bugs Bite!” The web address is [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases) and click “Don’t Let The Bed bugs Bite.” Here, you will find several downloadable documents including: Bed Bugs & Mattresses: Fact Sheet; Bed Bug Management Decision Flowchart; How to Move and Leave Bed bugs Behind; MCDH Factsheet; Questions and Answers about Bed Bugs; Choosing a Pest Control Company (MSU Extension Bulletin); Choosing a Pest Control Company; List of MDA Licensed Pest Management Firms; and Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs in Shelters and Group Living Facilities. More documents are being added monthly. Ultimately, the expectation is to prepare a comprehensive information resource document that can be downloaded by the Michigan public. PMAM has also encouraged training to its members and a course has been prepared and given around the state to various affiliates. There is a conference planned for August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport in Grand Rapids, sponsored by the Property Management Association of Michigan and Griffin Pest Solutions, that will provide training on the subject. The seminar will run from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Please contact Gary Offenbacher, a PMAM Board member, if you or your organization needs additional information – [goffenbacher@continentalmgt.com](mailto:goffenbacher@continentalmgt.com)