

Disclose bedbug sites: paramedics

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City paramedics want locations that have been treated for bedbug infestations publicly disclosed in the same way the city publicizes restaurant health violations and city police reveal the location of indoor marijuana grow operations.

On Tuesday, Chris Broughton, president of Manitoba Government and General Employees Union Local 911, which represents Winnipeg paramedics, the bedbug scourge is a growing health risk to emergency personnel and the general public.

"You don't want to create hysteria, but there has to be a balanced public response," Broughton said. "It's also a dicey subject, especially when you start getting into personal health information." But the risk of people unknowingly spreading the bedbugs outweighs privacy concerns, he added.

He said the city currently publicizes restaurants that have been forced to close temporarily because of insanitary conditions on a City of Winnipeg web page as a public service. In the same vein, Winnipeg police use a website to disclose locations where indoor marijuana grow operations have been uncovered.

Police say conditions in the house caused by the grow-ops, such as mould spores, could be injurious or dangerous to public health. The same could be done with buildings that have been treated for bedbugs, Broughton said, so people are more aware of their surroundings.

For the full WFP story, [click here](#).

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