



Pest infestation closes Saskatoon's brief and social detox unit

The Saskatchewan Health Authority says its brief and social detox unit in Saskatoon is closed while it deals with a cockroach infestation

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The Brief and Social Detox unit. LIAM RICHARDS / LIAM RICHARDS

The Saskatchewan Health Authority says its brief and social detox unit in Saskatoon is closed while it deals with a pest control issue — a cockroach infestation.

The SHA said on Tuesday that it closed the unit on Sept. 14 and the building at 201 Avenue O South is being prepared for fumigation, to be followed by a heat treatment. Both the brief and social units are expected to reopen by Saturday.

The 12-bed unit provides a safe place for adults with drugs or alcohol in their systems to detox while under supervision.

“We are taking immediate steps to resolve this issue for the health and safety of our clients, and want to apologize to our clients for this disruption in services. We hope to have the centre up and running as soon as possible,” SHA spokeswoman Amanda Purcell wrote in an email to the StarPhoenix.

She said that while the unit was closed, the SHA took the opportunity to proactively treat the site for bedbugs and for mice. Staff had found that a “small number” of mice had found their way inside the building during the cold weather.

In the meantime, the SHA will provide reduced social detox services through its other mental health and addictions services sites. It will also direct clients who call the Brief and Social Detox line to services.