

## **PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)**

### **Background**

The Division recognizes the concern represented by the transmission of pediculosis in schools and therefore encourages close communication between school staff, parents and public health nurses regarding the detection and resolution of identified cases. Head lice are considered a nuisance and not a health hazard. Care will be taken to protect the individual from undue invasion of privacy.

### **Procedures**

1. School staffs shall work with public health authorities and School Community Councils to describe and then communicate to parents both preventative and remedial procedures for dealing with instances of pediculosis.
2. Students confirmed to have pediculosis will have their parent/guardian informed and treatment will be recommended before returning to school. Treatment with an approved, properly applied, topical head lice insecticide (two applications 7 to 10 days apart) is recommended for any detected active case. When there is evidence of treatment failure – detection of live lice – using a full course of topical treatment from a different class of medication is recommended.
3. Families of children in a classroom where a case of active head lice has been detected should be notified and informed about proper diagnosis and prevention.
4. If there are ongoing concerns about particular cases not responding or reoccurrence the principal shall consult the Public Health Authority of these concerns.

Legal Reference: Section 85, 87, 109, 175, 188, 190 Education Act  
Information from the Canadian Pediatric Society

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