



PROCEDURE

SO101

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Board Received: February 24, 2020 Review Date: March 2024

Accountability

1. Frequency of Reports - As needed
2. Criteria for Success - Proper screening procedure in accordance with Regional Health Dept.
 - Clear communications with parents/guardians and employees.

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes pediculosis is not a health or education issue but is a community concern and a social nuisance. Pediculosis needs to be managed in the best interest of students through the partnership of parent(s)/guardian(s), students and the school community. The treatment and eradication of head lice is ultimately the parent(s)/guardian(s)' responsibility.

“Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice.” (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention).

Head lice can be a nuisance, but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

Procedures

This procedure will provide a consistent school response which is necessary to control this social nuisance. Each school is required to have an action plan in place to respond to cases of head lice; with the following requirements:

1. An annual, regular procedure for informing parents about pediculosis; utilizing the information provided by the Brant County Health Unit or the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit.
2. Recognition of the sensitive/personal nature of checking for head lice/nits with children. The dignity and well-being of students shall be given the highest priority. Every attempt will be made to respect the student's privacy and self-esteem. All who assist in this process must maintain confidentiality.
3. A process for checking for head lice and informing parents/guardians about treatment, and re-entry requirements.
4. Students will be re-admitted to school after appropriate treatment has begun.
5. Provision for school work to be provided where a student's re-admission is delayed.
6. The principal has the final decision regarding the re-admission of students.

Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>
- <https://hnhu.org/health-topic/head-lice-prevention-treatment/>
- <https://hnhu.org/health-topic/advice-on-lice/>
- <https://www.bchu.org/ServicesWeProvide/InfectiousDiseases/FactSheets/Documents/PDF%20version-1.pdf>

Appendix A

(School Letterhead)

CONFIRMATION OF TREATMENT FORM

(Date)

Your child, _____, has been found to have head lice and/or nits in their hair.

Once treatment has been completed, your child may return to school. Please complete this form and return it with your child and continue to carry out daily checks.

Thank you for your support in this matter. I hope that by working together we can eliminate head lice and nits from our school.

- 1. I have read the information provided. YES NO
- 2. A prescribed pediculosis treatment has been used. YES NO
Name of product: _____
- 3. Nit (egg) removal has been done. YES NO
- 4. A daily nit check will be done for 10 days. YES NO
- 5. A repeat of the treatment after 7 days has been done or is planned YES NO
- 6. Environmental treatment has been done. YES NO
(You should wash bed linens, recently worn clothing, toys, combs and brushes of the person with head lice)

If you need assistance with the treatment instructions, please call the Brant County Health Unit or the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit and ask for information.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Appendix B

(School Letterhead)

(Date)

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It has been reported that children in this school have head lice. Please do not be alarmed by this notice. Head lice is not a health or education issue but is a community concern and a social nuisance. It is by no means a statement regarding the cleanliness of any child, their family or their household.

Please examine the head of your child(ren) for head lice/nits every night for the next three to four weeks. If head lice/nits are found, all other family members should be checked. Follow the directions below to get rid of head lice.

What to Look For:

Nits are very tiny eggs, half the size of a pinhead and oval in shape. They may look like dandruff, but they are firmly glued to the hair and cannot be flicked off. New eggs, which are close to the scalp, are tan coloured and are difficult to see. Nits that are farther away from the scalp appear white. Nits are most often found above and behind the ears, at the nape of the neck at the crown of the head.

How to Get Rid of Head Lice:

Treating head lice requires at least two treatments one week apart. Get a head lice shampoo, cream rinse or lotion from your drugstore. Read the directions carefully and follow them exactly. **Remove all of the nits.** Head lice products kill many of the nits, but not all of them. **Apply a second treatment in one week.** Continue to check the head and remove any remaining nits.

To Remove Nits:

Work in a brightly lit area – bright sunlight is best. After treatment, comb and part the hair in small sections. Use your thumbnail against your first finger to strip the nits from the hair starting from the roots right down to the tips. Place the nits in a bag and throw them out. You can also comb out the nits holding a fine-tooth comb on a downward angle. Special combs are available at the drugstore.

Please notify the school if head lice or nits are found.

I hope that by working together we can avoid or eliminate this nuisance from our school.

(Signature of Principal)