



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>