



<b>POLICY:</b>	Pr ST: 09
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	Dec.15, 1998
<b>AMENDED:</b>	Oct. 9, 2007 April 21, 2020
<b>RELATED POLICIES:</b>	See References
<b>REPEALS:</b>	
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	2025-2026

## 1.0 OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To establish procedure for the detection and control of pediculosis (head lice).

## 2.0 PROCEDURE

- 2.1 Each September, all elementary schools, and secondary schools where necessary, shall send information home to the school community regarding the prevention and control of pediculosis (Appendix A). Parents/guardians shall be encouraged to learn how to identify head lice and nits and make the checking of hair a part of regular hygiene. Educational sessions for educators, parents/guardians or students may be arranged with the school community Public Health nurse.
- 2.2 Following the discovery or report of pediculosis, the Principal shall take the following steps:
  - a. “Notice of Head Lice in School” (Appendix B) shall be sent home with each person affected and to any other groups deemed necessary by the Principal. As well, any staff that has worked with the person having pediculosis, or that has been in the immediate vicinity of the person with pediculosis, shall be notified.
  - b. A “Confirmation of Treatment” form (Appendix C) shall be sent to the parents/guardians of each student having pediculosis, advising them of the policy on control of head lice and nits and the requirements to complete the form. This form is to be returned to the Principal prior to the student returning to class. The Principal will also provide parents/guardians with information about head lice (Appendix D).
  - c. Students and staff who are found to have head lice or nits shall be excluded from school by the Principal until treatment has been completed and they are deemed to be free of all head lice and/or nits, as determined by the Principal.
  - d. Staff who have contracted head lice from the workplace have the right to apply for benefits under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act by reporting the incident to their Principal/Supervisor, who will complete the accident and injury report.

- e. It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that a check is completed of the hair of children in a class where head lice/nits have been discovered and the hair of the siblings of the child identified with head lice that attend the same school. Principals may use volunteers from the school or community. These volunteers shall receive instruction in the identification of head lice to assist with this process. Appendix E may be used as a reference for instructing on the proper method for checking for the existence of head lice.

### **3.0 CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 3.1 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 volunteers from the school or community who assist in this process must ensure confidentiality.

### **4.0 APPENDICES**

- Appendix A - School Newsletter Insert
- Appendix B - Notice of Head Lice in School Letter
- Appendix C - Confirmation of Treatment Form
- Appendix D - Information About Head Lice
- Appendix E - How to Check for Head Lice