

## PEDICULOSIS - HEAD LICE

### Purpose

The purpose of a policy on head lice is to make certain that infected students are properly treated and that wider outbreaks are prevented. Parents are expected to work with the school to ensure that proper treatment procedures are followed.

### Parental Responsibility

The parents of students have a public responsibility to make certain that any infectious condition that their children have would not be inflicted upon other children. With respect to head lice, parents are responsible for:

- Immediately informing the school if the condition was discovered at home.
- Immediately treating the condition, whether it was discovered at home or at school.
- Assuring the school that appropriate treatment and follow-up procedures have occurred.

### School Procedures/Protocols

When a student at school is suspected of having head lice the condition is verified by an informed adult and the parent or guardian is contacted immediately. Siblings or others living at that home will also be checked by the informed adult.

Fellow students (usually students who are in close proximity such as a classroom or home room grouping) will take home information provided by Manitoba Health which inform parents on how to check their children for head lice and on how to apply treatment, if necessary.

Students who have confirmed cases of head lice will be sent home to be treated by an effective pediculicide agent as soon as parents can make arrangements for the care of the student. A checklist will be provided to assist parents in the treatment and follow up process.

Provided that all activities on the checklist have been completed, students may return to school the next day.

### Serious or Reoccurring Infestations

Where a home or family is found to have recurring head lice problems, public health authorities will be asked to assist that family in correcting the problem and in educating to prevent reinfestations.

If students from more than one family in the classroom are found to have head lice, all students in that classroom will be checked. Corrective action which includes informing parents, shampooing, and completing the check list before the child's return to school (as stated in number 3) will be taken if a serious outbreak occurs. This may require the assistance of a public health nurse.

**PARENT CHECKLIST FOR HEAD LICE**

The school realizes the inconvenience and extra effort required in the treating of head lice. It thanks you for the responsibility that you take in preventing the spread of this problem.

Child's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

	Check all family members.
	Remove nits from hair with a nit-comb or fingernails.
	Soak all combs/brushes in a bleach solution or put in a freezer for 24 hours.
	Wash bedding, towels and hats in hot water with bleach.
	Put blankets in hot dryer for 20 minutes or in a freezer for 24 hours.
	Vacuum mattress, carpets, upholstery.
	Inform parents of children who have been in close proximity to your children while at your home.

Also remember to repeat the treatment for all family members within a week's time and remind your children not to share hats, scarves or play with other children's hair. The school may call to check whether the subsequent treatment has occurred.