

Pediculosis Management Procedure

RATIONALE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is committed to ensuring the provision of plans, programs, and/or services that will enable students with pediculosis to attend and participate in school while providing information to families. This procedure sets out the approach schools will take to communicate pediculosis in schools.

When a student in a school is found to have head lice, they may remain at school. There is no medical reason for excluding a student with nits or live lice from school. Navigating these circumstances must respect, to the degree possible, the student's right to privacy, dignity, and cultural sensitivity. Staff should refer to the Principal Communication Guide (Head Lice and Information Sheet) for communication standards with their school communities.

TERMINOLOGY:

Nits - are smaller than the head of a pin and are shaped like a tear drop. They resemble dandruff but are very difficult to remove.

Pediculosis - is an infestation of the hairy parts of the body or clothing with the eggs, larvae or adults of lice.

PROCEDURES:

1.0 Responsibility

1.1 The Principal shall:

- 1.1.1 Ensure that the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students with an infestation are notified of the infestation and recommended to contact a health professional for the management of pediculosis as soon as reasonably possible;
- 1.1.2 For elementary schools, notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of students in the classroom where an infestation has been confirmed by sending home the Head Lice Letter and Head Lice Information Sheet;
- 1.1.3 For secondary schools, notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student with a confirmed infestation by sending home the Head Lice Information Sheet;
- 1.1.4 Where a family has ongoing concerns regarding pediculosis, refer them to a health professional.

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1.2 The Staff shall:

- 1.2.1 Report infestations to the Principal;
- 1.2.2 Follow instructions from the school's administrators regarding any preventative measures.

1.3 The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall:

- 1.3.1 Understand the signs and symptoms of an infestation;
- 1.3.2 Identify infestation of head lice and inform the school.

2.0 Process

2.1 When a student is identified with head lice, the school will:

- 2.1.1 Notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students identified with head lice using the Head Lice Letter and encourage them to seek treatment.
- 2.1.2 Send the Head Lice Letter to parent(s)/guardian(s) of all students in the classroom with a confirmed head lice infestation for elementary schools. Send the Head Lice Information Sheet to only the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student with head lice for secondary schools.