

Head Lice Policy

Policy Overview

This policy addresses how the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) will respond to head lice in our schools.

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Policy and Procedures History

- Policy approved - September 1997
- Policy revised - June 22, 2011
- Policy revised – June 3, 2015
- Procedures approved - September 1997
- Procedures revised - June 22, 2011
- Procedures revised – June 3, 2015

1.0 Legislative Context

- 1.1 The Halifax Regional School Board is committed to ensuring the management of head lice in schools is in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - 1.1.1 Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, Guidelines for Treatment of Pediculosis Capitis (Head Lice);
 - 1.1.2 Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*.

2.0 Principles

- 2.1 The HRSB adopts the position of the Department of Health and Wellness with regards to head lice.
- 2.2 The confidentiality and dignity of students with head lice will be respected. The Halifax Regional School Board recognizes that the discovery of head lice on a child can result in parents feeling discomfort and embarrassment.
- 2.3 The Halifax Regional School Board acknowledges that head lice are a common condition that can affect anyone and encourages parents to have open and frank conversation on the topic.
- 2.4 The Halifax Regional School Board's objective is to minimize time missed from school as a result of head lice.

3.0 Authorization

- 3.1 The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement procedures in support of this policy.

4.0 Policy Review

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed every five (5) years or on an as needed basis.

Head Lice Procedures

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1.0 Principal's Responsibilities

- 1.1 The principal shall:
 - 1.1.1 Communicate pro-actively to parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding head lice prevention and treatment;
 - 1.1.2 Notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the suspicion that their child has head lice;
 - 1.1.1.1 Children who are suspected of having nits (small silver-gray egg casings) may remain at school;
 - 1.1.1.2 Children who are suspected of having live lice (insects) will be sent home with parent(s)/guardian(s) for treatment.
 - 1.1.3 Recommend to parent(s)/guardian(s) that they examine their child for the presence of head lice;
 - 1.1.4 Send home a copy in an envelope or email an electronic copy of the NS Department of Health and Wellness pamphlet, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, (Available at <http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>)
 - 1.1.5 Notify parent(s)/guardian(s) that a child with head lice, may return to school after the first treatment outlined by NS Department of Health and Wellness, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, is completed;
 - 1.1.6 Recommend to parent(s)/guardian(s) that anyone living or spending time in their household be checked for head lice;
 - 1.1.7 Regularly remind parent(s)/guardian(s) to check their child for nits or lice;
 - 1.1.8 Advise school staff that student confidentiality is to be maintained.

2.0 Staff Responsibilities

- 2.1 A staff member who suspects that a student may have head lice shall notify the school principal.

3.0 Parent(s)/Guardian(s)' Responsibilities

- 3.1 Parent(s)/guardian(s) are expected to:
- 3.1.1 Check their child for nits and head lice on a regular basis;
 - 3.1.2 Notify the school if their child has head lice;
 - 3.1.3 Check other family members or others spending time in the house of children identified as having head lice;
 - 3.1.4 Provide recommended head lice treatment to a child identified as having head lice as outlined by Public Health, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, and complete first treatment prior to their child returning to school;
 - 3.1.5 Call 8-1-1 at any time to speak with a Registered Nurse for more information and guidance if head lice are still present after the second treatment.