
CONTROL OF HEAD LICE IN SCHOOLS

- POLICY -

The Board of Education recognizes that while head lice are not a health hazard, they need to be controlled among school age children.

While, the Board respects the practices recommended by the Vancouver Island Health Authority for detecting and treating head lice, which are based on current research, the Board recognizes there are other methods of checking for and treating head lice.

It is the Board's view that while treatment is the responsibility of the parent or guardian, schools, in the interests of promoting healthy, safe and caring environments, bear some responsibility to be pro-active in the control of head lice in schools.

- REGULATION -

School administrators will ensure that the following procedures are followed in order to control the spread of head lice in elementary schools:

1. Early in the school year the district's policy on the control of head lice, together with a summary of information from the Vancouver Island Health Authority about the detection and treatment of head lice will be made available to all parents of elementary students.
2. Schools may wish to conduct periodic head lice checks to assist in detecting students who may have had lice.
3. When cases of head lice are suspected a letter will be sent home to parents as soon as possible asking them to check their child according to the steps outlined in the Vancouver Island Health Authority pamphlet, "Wet Combing: How to Get Rid of Head Lice."

4. When a case of head lice is confirmed, a letter will be sent to all parents of children in the class as soon as possible informing them of this and giving them instructions about how to check their child using the recommended method.
5. Parents will be provided with specific information about where they can obtain the recommended materials for detecting and treating head lice.
6. If the infected child returns to school untreated the school will contact the parent and advise them that they are required to administer the recommended treatment. The Public Health Nurse can be called by the school for assistance.
7. In difficult cases of chronic infestation, a meeting between family and key school/community personnel may be needed to provide support and develop solutions which facilitate the student's continued attendance at school.

An Information and Education package will be provided to each school to assist with the implementation of these regulations.