

## **HEAD LICE**

### **POLICY**

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#### **1.0 PRINCIPLES**

- 1.1 The Halifax Regional School Board acknowledges that head lice are a common condition that can affect anyone.
- 1.2 The confidentiality and dignity of students with head lice will be respected.
- 1.3 The Halifax Regional School Board's objective is to minimize time missed from school as a result of head lice.
- 1.4 Checking for head lice is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s).

#### **2.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

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

#### **3.0 AUTHORIZATION**

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

## HEAD LICE

### PROCEDURES

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#### **1.0 PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

1.1 The principal shall:

1.1.1 Notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the suspicion that the student has head lice;

1.1.1.1 Students who are suspected of having nits may remain at school.

1.1.1.2 Students who are suspected of having live lice will be sent home for treatment with parent(s)/guardian(s).

1.1.2 Recommend to parent(s)/guardian(s) that they examine the student for the presence of head lice;

1.1.3 Send home Public Health's treatment pamphlet, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, with the student in a sealed envelope;

1.1.4 Notify parent(s)/guardian(s) that a student with head lice, may return to school after the first treatment outlined by Public Health, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, is completed;

1.1.5 Recommend to parent(s)/guardian(s) that anyone living or spending time in their household be checked for head lice;

1.1.6 Send a notice home to all parent(s)/guardian(s) of students in that class when a student in the same class has a confirmed case of head lice;

1.1.7 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) shall:
  - 3.1.1 Check their child for 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 Contact the nearest Public Health office if head lice are still present after the second treatment.

## **4.0 POLICY REVIEW**

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years.