



<b>BOARD PROCEDURE</b>	
<i>Approval Date</i> <b>2017</b>	<i>Replacing</i> <b>All previous policies</b>
<i>Review Date</i> <b>2022</b>	<i>Page</i> <b>1 of 5</b>
<i>Contact Person/Department</i> <b>Superintendent Responsible for Specialized Services</b>	<i>Identification</i> <b>OP - 6501</b>

## **PEDICULOSIS MANAGEMENT**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

Trillium Lakelands District School Board believes in supporting parent(s)/guardian(s) in understanding the nature and treatment of pediculosis and its impact on students, their families and school.

The Board recognizes that head lice is not a disease or health issue, but is a societal and community concern which needs to be managed through partnership with parent(s)/guardian(s), students, staff and school community. The treatment and eradication of head lice is ultimately the parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility.

### **2.0 REFERENCES/RELATED DOCUMENTS**

2.1 ES-5000 Volunteer Helpers in the Schools

### **3.0 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

3.1 **PEDICULOSIS**  
Head Lice

3.2 **HEAD LICE INFESTATION**  
Detection of a living louse. The presence of nits (without detection of a living louse) may indicate a past infestation that may or may not be currently active.

3.3 **LOUSE**  
Small, wingless parasitic insects.

3.4 **NIT**  
The egg or young form of a louse; may be attached to human hair.

3.5 **TREATMENT**  
The use of a head lice removal shampoo or rinse, and/or the manual removal of all nits and lice.

## 4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

### 4.1 EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

- 4.1.1 The principal will support the education, prevention, identification and treatment of head lice within the school community.
- 4.1.2 The principal will have a plan to address supports for families/guardians who identify the purchase of shampoo or other treatments as a barrier to carry out effective treatment.

### 4.2 DETECTION OF HEAD LICE

- 4.2.1 The principal will work with the school community to recruit volunteers to perform screenings as needed.
- 4.2.2 Training resources are available at each school. Further information is available from the Department of Specialized Services.
- 4.2.3 Upon detection of nits only, the principal will communicate this fact to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that nits have been detected and treatment may be necessary.

Upon detection of live head lice, the principal shall communicate this fact to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child found to have live head lice, and a treatment is required.

- 4.2.4 The principal shall excuse any child with live lice, as soon as possible, for the purpose of receiving treatment, following notification to the parent(s)/guardian(s). If a student with live head lice is unable to return home immediately, the principal shall ensure that the student is provided with an appropriate work location..
- 4.2.5 The principal will need to check any siblings of the student in the school who has been identified as having live head lice/nits present.
- 4.2.6 The principal shall also notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the other children in the classroom where live head lice have been detected. (See Appendix 5.2) Consideration may also be given to notifying parent(s)/guardian(s) of students who ride the same bus.

### 4.3 TREATMENT OF LIVE LICE

- 4.3.1 The principal shall advise the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student with live head lice that it is their responsibility to use some form of treatment that will result in the student becoming free of live head lice (See Appendix 5.1).

- 4.3.2 The principal shall ensure a re-check occurs for the student(s) who had live head lice upon their return to school to ensure they are free of live head lice prior to re-admission to class.
- 4.3.3 Students may be re-admitted to school when they are found to have no live head lice.
- 4.3.4 Parents/ guardians may be required to confirm a second treatment has been administered 7 to 10 days following the first treatment.

#### 4.4 OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.4.1 Student absence as a result of having live head lice shall be recorded as “G” on the register. Absence length due to live head lice should be monitored to determine if the family may require additional support.
- 4.4.2 The principal shall make a referral to the Student Services/Attendance Counsellor when student absence becomes an attendance issue.
- 4.4.3 The use of insecticides in the classroom is strictly prohibited.

#### 5.0 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Sample Letter: Parent/Guardian Notification of Presence of Live Head Lice (Student-Specific)
- 5.2 Sample Letter: Notification of Presence of Live Head Lice (Class Notification)

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**SAMPLE LETTER**

Parent/Guardian Notification of Presence of Live Head Lice (Student-Specific)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Parent or Guardian

An inspection of the hair of this student indicates that he / she has live head lice and requires treatment.

**Recommendation:**

1. Select one of the many products used in the treatment of head lice, all of which can be purchased. **You may wish to** consult your pharmacist or other health care professional for product information.
2. **Please contact the school office if purchasing the necessary products is a barrier to providing effective treatment.**
3. Read carefully and follow the instructions accompanying the product. Do not treat more often than recommended.
4. Remove all nits (eggs) from the hair.
5. Check all family members to assure yourself that the infestation has not spread.

The school has additional information and resources about head lice available if required.

**Return to School:**

When treatment is completed and live lice have been removed from the hair, the student may return to school. I will be happy to check your child's hair for live lice and your child will be admitted to class once it has been confirmed that there are no live lice present. A second treatment may be necessary 7-10 days after the first treatment to remove the possibility of existing nits producing live lice. Please ensure you follow product directions. .

Thank you for your co-operation.

Principal

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**SAMPLE LETTER**

**Notification of Presence of Live Head Lice (Class Notification)**

TO: All Parents of Children in \_\_\_\_\_ Class

At least one student in this class has live head lice. Please examine your child's hair; if lice or nits are present, please consider the following recommendations:

1. Select one of the many products used in the treatment of head lice, all of which can be purchased. You may wish to consult your pharmacist or other health care professional for product information.
2. **Please contact the school office if purchasing the necessary products is a barrier to providing effective treatment.**
3. Read carefully and follow the instructions accompanying the product. Do not treat more than recommended.
4. Remove all nits from hair.
5. If live lice are found in hair, it may be necessary to repeat treatment after 7 to 10 days to remove the possibility of existing nits producing live lice.
6. Check all family members to assure yourself that the infestation has not spread.

The school has additional information and resources about head lice available if required.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Do not use a head lice shampoo as a preventative measure. Use only when head lice and/or nits are present.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Principal