



PROCEDURE

SO-041

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Education	Initial Effective Date: 2015/10/26
Last Updated: 2024/02/15	Next Review Date: 2027/02/15

Purpose:

To provide guidelines and school process for responding to cases of head lice at school.

Guiding Principles:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) recognizes pediculosis is not a health or education issue but is a community concern and a social nuisance. Pediculosis needs to be managed in the best interest of students through the partnership of parent(s)/caregiver(s), students and the school community. The treatment and eradication of head lice is ultimately the parent(s)/caregiver(s)' responsibility.

“Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice.” (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention).

Head lice can be a nuisance, but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

1.0 School Process:

- 1.1. Parent(s)/caregiver(s) will be informed annually about pediculosis; utilizing the information provided by the Brant County Health Unit or the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit.
- 1.2. Recognition of the sensitive/personal nature of checking for head lice/nits with children. The dignity and well-being of students will be given the highest priority. Every attempt will be made to respect the student's privacy and self-esteem. All who assist in this process will maintain confidentiality.
- 1.3. A process for checking for head lice and informing parents/caregivers about treatment.
- 1.4. Provision for schoolwork to be provided where a student's re-admission is delayed.

Reference(s):

- Brant County Health Unit – bchu.org
- Health and Social Services Haldimand and Norfolk – hnhu.org