

**CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL
REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

POLICY #ES-G-17

HEAD LICE

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The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board recognizes that head lice is a common condition that can affect anyone. Furthermore, the Board recognizes that the incidence of head lice can be a difficult and embarrassing situation for children and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Within this context, the Board is committed to ensuring that the management of head lice in regional schools:

- is undertaken with care and compassion;
- is consistent with Nova Scotia Department of Health and *Wellness, Guidelines for the Treatment of Pediculosis Capitis (Head Lice)* and Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*;
- respects the confidentiality and dignity of students with head lice;
- minimizes time missed from school due to head lice; and,
- provides appropriate support/advice/information to students with head lice (and their parents/guardians) and other students in the classroom and/or school.

To this end, the Board expects the Superintendent of Schools (or designate) to prepare, implement and monitor administrative procedures such that:

- school staff manage the head lice issue in an appropriate and timely manner;
- procedures and guidelines respect and protect the confidentiality and dignity of students;
- procedures and guidelines for head lice management minimize time missed from school; and,
- parents/guardians are aware of their responsibilities and understand checking/treatment procedures.

HEAD LICE

POLICY #ES-G-17

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Authorization These Administrative Procedures have been authorized by the **Superintendent of Schools**.

Scope Policy #ES-G-17 and these Administrative Procedures apply to all **students, staff and parents (guardians)**.

Responsibility It is the responsibility of the **Director of Education Services** to ensure that Policy #ES-G-17 and these Administrative Procedures are implemented.

Implementation Each school **Principal** shall implement Policy #ES-G-17 and these Administrative Procedures.

Procedures

1. **The school Principal shall:**
 - a) notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of the suspicion that the student has head lice or nits (head lice eggs);

Note:

- i. Students who are suspected of having live lice will be sent home for treatment with parent(s)/guardian(s).
 - ii. Students who are suspected of having nits may remain at school.
- b) recommend to parent(s)/guardian(s) that they examine the student for presence of head lice or nits;
 - c) send home the Department of Health and Wellness pamphlet, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, with the student in a sealed envelope;
 - d) notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) that:
 - i. a student with nits may continue attending school;

- ii. a student with head lice may return to school after the first treatment outlined in the pamphlet, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, is completed;
 - e) recommend to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that anyone living or spending time in their household be checked for lice and/or nits;
 - f) send a notice home to all parents/guardians of students in that class when a student in the same class has a confirmed case of head lice;
 - g) advise school staff that confidentiality is to be maintained.
2. **Teachers and/or other school staff (e.g. supervisors) shall:**
- a) notify the school principal of a suspected case of head lice.
3. **Parent(s)/Guardian(s) shall:**
- a) check their child for head lice or nits on a regular basis;
 - b) notify the school (classroom teacher or principal) if their child has head lice;
 - c) check other family members or others spending time in the home of a child identified as having head lice;
 - d) apply recommended head lice treatment to the child identified as having head lice as outlined in the Department of Health and Wellness pamphlet, *How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice*, and complete first treatment prior to their child returning to school;
 - e) contact the nearest Public Health office if head lice are still present after the second treatment.

Distribution: All Policy and Procedure Manual holders