

MANAGEMENT OF LICE IN SCHOOLS

Background

Head lice are common and may spread in any situation where individuals gather and are in close contact. It is recognized that, from time to time, students enrolled in schools may come in contact with head lice. The identification, management and treatment of head lice shall be a co-operative endeavour between the family and the school community, with primary responsibility resting with the parent.

Families and School communities are encouraged to reference information and resources on the Fraser Health website.

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/illness-and-immunizations/head-lice>

An outbreak of head lice in a school shall not be considered a health hazard. It is important to note that the presence of head lice is not a reflection on the level of cleanliness or parenting skills of a home. Head lice do not transmit disease.

Procedures

To ensure a common approach to the management of head lice in school communities in District 43, the following procedures are provided.

1. Upon the report and confirmation of head lice in the school, notification shall take place in a timely and sensitive manner.
 - 1.1 for confirmed instances of head lice, verbal notification shall be given as soon as possible
 - 1.2 written notification shall be given where and when appropriate and in line with the school process
 - 1.3 notification shall include general information about head lice and treatment alternatives – Fraser Health Website
2. Upon notification parents may choose to temporarily withdraw their child from school for immediate treatment. However, no child may be prohibited from attending or participating at school because of head lice.
 - 2.1 children with confirmed head lice shall remain with their class until the parent picks them up or until the end of the school day

3. Treatment shall take place in a timely manner and follow the recommended protocol as outlined by Fraser Health
 - 3.1 The school may assist families in need with the purchase of treatment products

Reference: Section 65, 85, School Act
Public Health Act

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