



ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE STUDENTS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY	
Effective:	September 30, 2016
Last Revised:	

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PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice)

1. PURPOSE

This administrative procedure is intended to help staff members support parents in understanding pediculosis (head lice) and its impact on students, their families, and school life. The procedure describes roles and responsibilities and ways of managing and treating pediculosis.

2. DEFINITIONS

Parent: Every use of “parent” in this administrative procedure includes legal guardians.

3. APPLICATION

This administrative procedure describes the responsibilities of parents and the support provided by the school staff.

4. Pediculosis (Head Lice)

- 4.1 Rainbow District School Board recognizes that head lice (pediculosis) is not a disease. However, it is an aggravating condition. Although neither the provincial Ministry of Health nor the Public Health Agency of Canada recognizes head lice as a serious medical problem, the board recognizes that head lice is a societal and community problem which needs to be managed through partnerships with parents, students, the staff, and community.
- 4.2 Involving all stakeholders in communication and education about head lice is essential for maintaining a relationship of trust and respect while dealing with this issue.

5. School Responsibilities

- 5.1 School staff members shall become informed about the prevention and treatment of head lice.

- 5.2 Each school is responsible for implementing a pediculosis program/protocol. Schools shall provide parents and staff with details of the protocol at appropriate intervals throughout the school year.
- 5.3 Upon detection of head lice and/or nits (eggs), the school shall communicate this fact to the parents of the student found to have head lice, along with information about the recommended methods of de-infestation. Following notification to the parents, the school shall excuse the child as soon as possible, for the purpose of receiving treatment.
- 5.4 At all times, the dignity of the student will be protected.
- 5.5 The staff will make every effort, considering available resources, to isolate the student with as much sensitivity as possible until suitable arrangements for pick-up can be made.
- 5.6 Schools shall notify parents that head lice have been detected in their child's classroom. Parents shall be advised to watch for signs on their child, and be provided with information about recommended methods of treatment.

6. Parent Responsibilities

- 6.1 The treatment and eradication of head lice is ultimately the parent's responsibility.
- 6.2 Parents are encouraged to learn how to recognize head lice and routinely check their children. In order to prevent the spread of head lice, parents are expected to notify schools upon knowledge of their child having nits or head lice. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child is free of lice and nits before re-admittance to school.

7. Treatment

- 7.1 Schools shall advise parents that they are responsible for ensuring some form of treatment will be applied that results in the student being lice and nit free before returning to school.
- 7.2 Parents should seek advice from a pharmacy regarding treatment options.
- 7.3 Students shall be welcomed back to school upon a successful screen. If a student screen is unsuccessful, the parent will be contacted and the student will return home. When a student is absent from school as a result of head lice, an excused absence will be recorded on the attendance record. If a number of days are missed due to head lice, the attendance counsellor will be notified.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Legal:

Education Act, section 265 Duties of Principal: Care of Pupils

Education Act, section 265 Duties of Principal: Access to School or Class

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act