CAMPBELL RIVER
School District 72

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

Background

Head lice, also known as Pediculosis, 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. However, an outbreak of head lice in a school is not considered a health hazard as head lice, while a nuisance, do not transmit disease.

The identification, management and treatment of head lice shall be a cooperative endeavour between the family, the school community and the Vancouver Island Health Authority, with primary responsibility resting with the parent.

Procedures

1. Schools will provide information from the Vancouver Island Health Authority regarding the detection and treatment of head lice to parents.

2. Parents will be advised that they must inform the school if their child has head lice.

3. Staff shall be made aware of possible signs of head lice.

4. Should a child be found to have head lice by school staff, the parent(s) will be contacted and requested to begin treatment. Students will not be sent home from school and the issue should be dealt with sensitively.

5. If the infected child returns to school untreated, the school will contact the parent and advise them that they are encouraged to administer the recommended treatment. The Public Health Unit can be called by the school for assistance.

6. Upon the report and confirmation of head lice in the school, the school principal will notify the school community in a timely and sensitive manner, again providing general information regarding the detection and treatment of head lice (SD72 Form 347-1 Head Lice Alert).

7. In difficult cases of chronic infestation, a meeting between family and key school/community personnel may be needed to provided support and develop solutions which facilitate the student's continued attendance at school.

Reference: HealthLinkBC Head Lice Number 06 August 2014

Related Forms: SD72 Form 347-1 Head Lice Alert