

## 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 and staff.
2. Parents will be advised that they must inform the school if their child has head lice.
3. Upon a report of head lice in the school, the school principal will notify the school community in a timely and sensitive manner, providing general information regarding the detection and treatment of head lice (SD72 Form 347-1 Head Lice Alert).
4. If head lice continues to be a persistent problem, the school will support the family in obtaining further advice from public health.

Reference: [HealthLinkBC Head Lice information](#)

Related Forms: [SD72 Form 347-1 Head Lice Alert](#)

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