

HEAD LICE INFESTATIONS AT SCHOOL

Background

Head lice infestations are communicable and principals are encouraged to implement a control program to address the problem. An effective program requires the joint effort of the parents' advisory council, the Penticton and Summerland Health Units and the District.

Procedures

1. Principals and their parents' advisory council (PAC) are encouraged to develop a program of detection and prevention.
2. A general education program is available for parents from the Penticton and Summerland Health Units. Follow-up instruction is available from the Penticton and Summerland Health Units for families and students known to have repeated infestations. The Principal will refer families and students known to have repeated infestations to the Penticton and Summerland Health Units for follow-up instruction.
3. When head lice are detected, the Principal and the PAC will determine the need to examine classmates and close friends, and whether to send a notice to parents of classmates or of children in the whole school.
4. The District will make supplies and equipment available to assist with the detection of head lice.
5. In chronic cases, where efforts to address the problem of head lice infestation have been unsuccessful, a suspension from school may be made for failure to "maintain appropriate standards of hygiene"

Reference: Sections 7, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85 School Act
Child, Family and Community Service Act
Interior Health Recommended Head Lice Management

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Revised: