



Lice

Administrative Procedure 1.B.130

Board Governance Policy Cross Reference: 1, 2, 3, 16, 17

Legal Reference:

Date Adopted: June, 2012

Date Amended: September, 2012; April, 2019; November, 2023; January, 2024

The principal and staff of each school will be responsible for the monitoring of lice in the school. Lice problems are afflictions that can be obtained by any person. To protect the general population, procedures need to be implemented so the problem can be controlled and monitored. As a result, the following procedures are to be applied.

Regulations and Procedures

1. Upon discovering lice in a student(s) head, their attending siblings and all students in that classroom may be checked at the discretion of school administration.
 2. Those students who have lice or nits will have their parent/guardian contacted by the school and notified by letter. Include the Manitoba "Lice Control Check List" with the letter.
 3. In order to prevent the spread of head lice, parents/guardians of all students in the same class of an affected student should be notified by letter to monitor for head lice. Include the Manitoba "Lice Control Check List" with the letter.
 4. If multiple cases of lice are confirmed in one class, the teacher may implement the following classroom precautions. Some measures may include
 - Separating student clothing to ensure they do not touch; student clothing can also be kept in large plastic bags.
 - Discourage students from laying on carpets. Remove any pillows or communal chairs that are not able to be cleaned between use.
 - Encourage students with long hair to keep their hair tied back.
 - Increase classroom cleaning measures especially vacuuming
 - Gym mats may be a source of transmission, consider temporarily suspending the use of mats.
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Success for All

Dear Parent/Guardian:

There has been a case of head lice in your child's class. In order to prevent the spread we ask that you check your child's head for lice. Although head lice do not cause disease, their presence is troublesome and can cause emotional stress in a family. It is important to check your child's hair carefully every day for the next several weeks for lice and their nits (eggs). Other signs of head lice are itchiness and reddened areas of the scalp.

If your child has lice, the most important step in the control of head lice is effectively treating the hair with a lice treatment.

Please review the attached head lice control check list for instruction and information.

Families with prescription coverage including treaty coverage can access treatment at their local pharmacy. Several pharmacies are able to provide the prescription for lice treatment free of charge. Please contact your local pharmacy for details. Alternatively, primary health care providers can also provide a prescription for lice treatment. For those that do not have prescription coverage it is recommended you purchase the treatment from a pharmacy. If you are unable to purchase the treatment and you do not have prescription coverage please contact Public Health at 204-677-5350 for assistance.

If you have any questions about head lice, please contact your health care provider, your local Public Health Unit at 204-677-5350 or call Health Links-Info Santé toll-free 1-888-315-9257.

Information is also available on the Manitoba Health website at:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/headlice.html.

Yours truly,

Principal

School District of Mystery Lake



Success for All

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Today at school, we found that your child has lice.

It is recommended that you use lice treatment on your child's hair as soon as possible. It is also recommended that all other family members living in your household have their head checked for lice.

Families with prescription coverage including treaty coverage can access treatment at their local pharmacy. Several pharmacies are able to provide the prescription for lice treatment free of charge. Please contact your local pharmacy for details. Alternatively, primary health care providers can also provide a prescription for lice treatment. For those that do not have prescription coverage it is recommended you purchase the treatment from a pharmacy. If you are unable to purchase the treatment and you do not have prescription coverage, please contact Public Health at 204-677-5350 for assistance.

A child with head lice must be treated with lice shampoo. If all live lice have been removed, children may return to school after the first lice treatment. He/she should be seen in the school office for a head check before returning to their classroom. Continue to check your child's head each day for nits (eggs) and remove them with a fine-toothed comb. Lice combs can be purchased at the pharmacy.

Please review the attached headlice control check list for instruction and information.

Repeat the treatment as directed on the package instructions. This is an important step to be sure that any lice that may have hatched since the first treatment are also killed.

We suggest you talk to your child/ren about not sharing hats, coats, combs and brushes etc., as this is one way lice is spread. For children with longer hair, it is recommended that it be tied back.

If you have any questions about head lice, please contact your health care provider, your local Public Health Unit at 204-677-5350 or call Health Links-Info Santé toll-free at 1-888- 315-9257.

Information is available on the Manitoba Health website at:
www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/headlice.html.

Thank you for your cooperation. Yours

truly,

Principal

Head Lice Control Check List

Environmental Health – Factsheet

Check your child's head for head lice every week using bright or natural lighting. If you find lice or nits, check the hair of other family members daily for two weeks. Do not treat anyone unless they have lice.

1. Brush hair thoroughly.
2. Before treating, wash hair thoroughly with shampoo **free** of conditioners and other additives. They may interfere with the lice product.
3. Read directions on lice product as some products are applied to damp or dry hair.
4. Shake lice product well.
5. Thoroughly saturate hair and scalp with sufficient amount of lice product (as indicated on product insert).
6. Leave on hair for period of time stated on product. For thicker, longer hair, you may want to double the time and/or amount of product.
7. Rinse hair well with water and towel dry.
8. Part hair into sections to assist with nit removal.
9. Remove **all** nits by pulling them off with your fingers (a nit comb may help). This can take time but it is the *most important step*. Checking for and removing nits should be done daily for 14 days.
10. Repeat steps 1 - 9 in 7 days.

Use another head lice product if **live lice** are found within 24-48 hours after first treatment.

Immediately contact schools, child caregivers and any other persons who may have been exposed.

Your child can return to school or child care after the first treatment.

Call your public health nurse for advice if necessary.

Household Cleaning

1. Soak combs, brushes, hair clips in very *hot* water for 15 minutes.
2. Launder personal belongings (especially head gear), recently-worn clothing, towels and bed linen in *hot* water. Dry using *hot* cycle of the dryer.
3. Items that cannot be exposed to *hot* water should be either placed in a hot dryer for 20 minutes, *frozen* at -20°C for 24 hours, *sealed* in a plastic bag for 10 days or *dry cleaned*.
4. Vacuum or wash areas where there has been direct head contact (couch, bed, car seat).

If you have any concerns or questions, or have difficulty getting rid of head lice, contact your doctor, public health nurse or Health Links-Info Santé, Winnipeg at 788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257; or access our website at www.gov.mb.ca/health.