



Turtle River School Division - Administrative Procedure

Section B – Student Services

Head Lice

Procedures/Guidelines

1. If a student exhibits behaviours that might suggest evidence of head lice, they should be referred to the principal of the school.
2. The principal will assess whether head lice and/or nits are present.
3. If a student has head lice, parents will be notified and must treat the lice before the student returns to school.
4. Treatment needs to be consistent with the guidelines set out by Manitoba Health and the Public Health Branch, as outlined in the brochure Manitoba Public Health Communicable Disease Management Protocol on Head Lice <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/pediculosis.pdf> . The school will support the family by providing them with information and education based from Manitoba Health.
5. Any returning student who has not been treated will be sent home. Families must ensure the head lice are treated before the child can return to school.
6. As a precaution, the teacher/custodian will launder all fabrics, carpets and stuffed animal type materials in the classroom as per the direction of the principal.
7. The principal will send home information and notice by letter to other students in that class that day regarding a possibility of head lice.
8. If parents are having difficulty in treating head lice, they can be referred to the local Public Health Nurse for their assistance.
9. For more information, please visit the Manitoba Public Health website: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/pediculosis.pdf>

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Sample Letter (Put on school letter head.)

June 19, 202__

Dear Parent/Guardian

There has been a case of head lice in _____ School. In order to stop further spread, we ask your assistance and cooperation in checking your child's hair. Although head lice do not carry disease or have anything to do with cleanliness, their presence is troublesome and can cause emotional stress on a family.

The most important step in the control of head lice is effectively treating the hair with a pediculicide (lice killing) shampoo. Such products can be obtained from your Public Health Nurse or purchased at any pharmacy. Ensure the shampoo thoroughly saturates the hair right to the scalp, paying particular attention to longer, thick hair. First check the hair at the back of the neck and behind the ears and then the remainder of the head for lice or nits. Thorough removal of the nits or eggs is recommended for two reasons. Firstly, it makes it easier to see new infestations. Secondly, it helps to avoid unnecessary treatments due to false identification of a re-infestation by an untrained eye. Re-treatment is necessary in seven to ten days to kill any lice hatching from eggs that were not killed with the first treatment. Follow the directions on the shampoo.

It is important to check your child's hair carefully every day for the next several weeks for the lice and their nits. Itchiness and reddened areas of the scalp may also indicate the presence of head lice.

Wash items that have been into contact with the infected person's scalp, such as combs, brushes, headgear, pillow cases, clothing, and towels, in very hot water. The heat of the water or the hot cycle of the clothes dryer will aid in the killing of the lice. Items which cannot be laundered should be placed in a plastic bag, sealed, and left for at least fourteen days.

If you have any questions about head lice, please feel free to contact your Public Health Nurse at 835-5010 or 447-4080. For more information, please contact the Manitoba Public Health website at

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/pediculosis.pdf>

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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.

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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.

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