



YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PREVENTION OF PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Since any child may become infested under suitable conditions and because of the amount of group activity in schools, prevention in the school is an important consideration in the control of pediculosis (head lice).

The following routine precautions will help to minimize the incidence of pediculosis in the school.

- Discourage students from using one another's personal articles and clothing such as, but not limited to, brushes, combs, hats, sporting helmets, scarves, coats and headphones.
- Encourage students to keep hats and scarves in coat sleeves or pockets.
- Assign individual coat hooks or lockers to students. (Wall hooks ideally should be at least 30 cm (12 inches) or more apart).
- Have carpeted classrooms vacuumed regularly, especially in nursery schools and in grades where younger children spend considerable time on the floor.
- Clean tumbling mats and other gym equipment regularly. These precautions should be more strictly instituted when there is one or more infested students in the classroom.
- Educate teachers and parents on how to look for and how to recognize head lice .

During an infestation additional preventative measures are advised.

- Carefully monitor close physical groupings where/when they do occur (maximize use of chairs).
- Suspend contact sports and certain classroom activities such as, but not limited to, dressing up in costumes, wigs or hats; listening through headphones or any group activities requiring students to sit on the floor.
- Vacuum carpeted classrooms daily.
- Wherever possible, limit the number of students per seat on school buses, (e.g. two per seat).
- Have students keep their hats, coats, scarves etc. at their desks.
- Temporarily remove pillows and stuffed animals and store in a plastic bag for two weeks.
- Have classroom articles of clothing dry-cleaned.