



Pediculosis (Head Lice) Management Guidelines

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The nurses in Conestoga Valley School District want you to have an opportunity to understand the district-wide guidelines for managing head lice. We realize that this topic can cause a wide variety of emotional responses in families, and we want to provide clear information to you so that this issue can be handled in a calm and confidential manner in the school setting.

Pediculosis, or head lice, is a common parasitic insect that can affect up to 10% of an elementary school population. It can be found on people of all races, ages, gender or socio-economic status. While our school district does not routinely screen for head lice, school nurses will help families understand the treatment process in order to provide control in an identified student. School nurses will check other students at their discretion, based on specific findings from their assessments.

Parents/Guardians will be contacted if lice are found on their child at school and instructed to treat their child with an over-the-counter product. They will be given a Bug Basic Treatment sheet and a Home Treatment Reference sheet to follow. Upon the student's return to school, the school nurse will establish a schedule for head checks that will ensure control of the issue. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to remove all nits (eggs) from the hair strands of a student who has been treated for head lice.

If the treatment with over-the counter products is not successful and all protocols have been followed, the school nurse will recommend that the student be seen by their family practitioner for an evaluation. Additionally, if the student has not received a treatment, continues with lice for seven days, or has had three infestations during the school year, the nurse will involve the home school visitor. Letters will not be sent out to individual classes due to confidentiality, but a yearly letter, such as this one, will be sent to parents reviewing the head lice guidelines in our school district.

If you are noticing that your student is scratching his/her head more than usual and reports itchiness, please check the hair for nits. We ask that you promptly notify the school nurse in your student's building if you think that your child may have head lice. This communication will allow the nurse to immediately assess the situation, make any necessary discrete examinations, and provide you with professional assistance in home management. Please call your school nurse if you have any questions about these guidelines.

Thank you,

The School Nurses of CVSD