

PEDICULOSIS (LICE)

Background:

The Division recognizes the concern represented by the transmission of pediculosis in schools and therefore encourages close communication between school staff, parents and public health nurses regarding the detection and resolution of instances of pediculosis. Care shall be taken to protect the individual from undue invasion of privacy.

Procedures:

1. School staff shall work with public health authorities, School Councils and the Occupational Health and Safety Specialist to describe and then communicate to parents/guardians both preventative and remedial procedures for dealing with instances of pediculosis. Additional information is available in [Appendix 318-A: Frequently Asked Questions about Head Lice](#).
 - 1.1. When communicating cases of reported pediculosis in schools, staff shall use the head lice template letter available in [Division templates](#).
2. Parents/guardians of infected students shall be requested to pick up students from school as soon as possible for treatment.
3. Students shall be permitted to return to school after they have undergone a recommended course of treatment and there are no live lice present. Information for families about [how to treat head lice](#) is available on the MyHealth website from Alberta Health Services.
4. The Principal may require the parent/guardian to provide a letter verifying treatment has occurred and, with parent/guardian permission, have a trained staff member or volunteer screen the child prior to returning to class.
5. If there are ongoing concerns about particular cases of pediculosis where families are not responding or being compliant with therapy, the Principal or designate shall inform the Public Health Authority of such concerns.

Reference:

Section 11, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222 *Education Act*
Public Health Act

[Appendix 318-A: Frequently Asked Questions about Head Lice](#)