



PROCEDURE

SO-041

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Human Resources	Initial Effective Date: 2015/10/26
Last Updated: 2025/02/24	Next Review Date: 2029/02/21

Purpose:

To provide guidelines for responding to cases of pediculosis (head lice) in schools.

Guiding Principles:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) recognizes head lice is not a health concern or a communicable disease. Head lice needs to be managed in the best interest of students through the partnership of parent(s)/caregiver(s), students and the school community. The treatment and eradication of head lice is ultimately the parent(s)/caregiver(s) responsibility.

When a student is found to have head lice, they should be treated and may remain at school. There is no medical reason for excluding a student with head lice from school. Navigating these circumstances must respect to the degree possible, the student's right to privacy, dignity, and emotional and physical well-being.

Head lice can be a nuisance, but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

1.0 School Process:

- 1.1 Parent(s)/caregiver(s) will be informed annually about pediculosis (head lice); utilizing the information provided by Grand Erie Public Health.
- 1.2 Recognition of the sensitive/personal nature of checking for head lice, the dignity and well-being of students will be given the highest priority. Every attempt will be made to respect the student's privacy and self-esteem. All who assist in this process will maintain confidentiality.
- 1.3 If a Grand Erie employee suspects that a student has head lice or has been informed of case of head lice, a report must be made to the School Administration.
- 1.4 School Administration will notify the parent(s)/caregiver(s) of student where there is a suspected report and recommend that they contact a health professional for the management of head lice as soon as reasonably possible and encourage them to seek treatment.

2.0 Parent(s)/Caregivers(s) Responsibilities:

- 2.1 Ensures treatment methods are carried out as required for a student with a suspected case of head lice.
- 2.2 Promotes and institutes preventive measures for the control of head lice in the home environment.

Reference(s):

- [Grand Erie Public Health](#)
- [Canadian Pediatric Society](#) – Caring for Kids Pediculosis (Head Lice)