

**THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE**

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE:

SECTION/CODE:

Pediculosis Management

School Operations D – 13

APPROVAL DATE:

SUPERSEDES:

NUMBER OF PAGES:

REVIEW DATE:

October 1, 2018

May 14, 2012

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September 24, 2018

POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of the Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene (PSSBP) to provide a process for dealing with pediculosis in school.

BACKGROUND

Under current Ontario legislation, an infestation of pediculosis (Head Lice) is not defined as a reportable disease but is classified as a nuisance and aggravating condition. As a responsible school community, however, it is incumbent on Burkevale School to minimize the risk of pediculosis infestations occurring in our buildings without adversely affecting the self-esteem of our students.

PROCEDURES:

1. GENERAL SCREENING

- 1.1 Parents will be urged to complete head checks on their children on a regular basis throughout the year. Should a case of Head Lice be detected, parents are urged to contact the school. Parents are encouraged to check the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Website for further information. <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/HealthUnit/Workplaces/Businesses/ChildCare/Illnesses/HeadliceInformation/factsoflice.aspx>
- 1.2 The school will conduct at least 2 checks of the entire school each year, early in the fall and some time during the late winter or early spring.

2. NOTIFICATION OF PEDICULOSIS

- 2.1 When a case of head lice occurs, the secretary is to be notified. The secretary will inform the individual parent/guardian of the presence of head lice on his/her child(ren). A letter will be provided by the school informing all parents when a case of head lice has been detected in their child(ren)'s classroom.
- 2.2 Infested students are not to attend school until evidence of effective treatment has been shown. No student with live lice will be permitted to participate in school activities. Upon returning to school, students will have their heads checked by trained volunteers or staff to ensure the absence of nits and live bugs. If an effort to remove nits is not evident, parents will be asked to take their child(ren) home for further treatment.

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3. AWARENESS PROTOCOL

- 3.1 The Principal/Vice-principal shall inform families of the pediculosis policy and methods of preventing and monitoring pediculosis each year in a fall newsletter. Reminder notices will be sent home as required.

4. RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

- 4.1 The school may canvass parents to recruit volunteers to support the head lice screening process. All volunteers are required to attend a training session in order to ensure accuracy of interpretation of the policy and to be able to recognize nits. All volunteers will sign a statement of confidentiality to protect the privacy of our students. (Refer to D 26 a - Volunteer Code of Conduct.)