

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> Students	<i>Policy Number</i> 210
<i>Former Policy #</i>	<i>Page</i> 1 of 6
<i>Original Approved Date</i>	<i>Subsequent Approval Dates</i>
April 25th, 1989	November 1996 January 2005 February 9th, 2010 November 23rd, 2010

POLICY TITLE: PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

SECTION A

1. PURPOSE

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes and appreciates concerns related to pediculosis at the school, community, and regional level. The Board also recognizes that the Ministry of Health does not designate pediculosis as a communicable disease, and as such, it is not considered a health hazard to the community.

The purpose of this policy and procedures is to provide assistance and direction to Board staff, parents, and pupils, when dealing with pediculosis.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board to assist staff, parents, and pupils in the identification, treatment, and prevention of pediculosis in co-operation with the York Region Public Health Services.

3. PARAMETERS

- 3.1 When responding to cases of pediculosis, staff is to ensure that the dignity and well-being of the pupil is given the highest priority.

- 3.2 The procedures as outlined in Section B are to be followed when dealing with cases of pediculosis.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Director of Education
To ensure compliance with this policy

- 4.2 School Principal
To review on an annual basis the 'Pediculosis policy and procedures'
To provide leadership in the school community to ensure that cases of pediculosis are handled in an effective manner while ensuring that the dignity and well-being of the individual pupil is given the highest priority.

5. DEFINITIONS

6. CROSS REFERENCES

Head Lice (Pediculosis) Resource kit

POLICY TITLE: PEDICULOSIS

SECTION B

GUIDELINES

1. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The principal's responsibility and authority to exclude a child from school is derived from the common law duty of care, and sections 236(j) and (m) of the Education Act which read as follows:
- (j) to give assiduous attention to the health and comfort of the pupils, to the cleanliness, temperature and ventilation of the school, to the care of all teaching materials and other school property, and to the condition and appearance of the school buildings and grounds;
 - (m) subject to an appeal to the Board, to refuse to admit to the school or classroom, a person whose presence in the school or classroom would, in his judgment, be detrimental to the physical or mental well-being of the pupils.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of the pupil to "be clean in person and habits". (Regulation 262 Clause (1) (f).

2. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- 2.1 The principal shall review the Pediculosis Policy at the beginning of each school year. The availability of the "Head Lice (Pediculosis) Resource Kit" should be noted and its use should be encouraged. The principal shall include a message regarding Pediculosis in a school newsletter at the beginning of each school year. A sample letter to parents is attached.
- 2.2 A copy of the York Region Public Health Services information pamphlet, "The Facts of Lice", is available in First Class in the Principal's Filing Cabinet. A copy is also available from York Region Public Health Services at www.york.ca.
- 2.3 The principal shall liaise with the Community Health Nurse to provide additional information to parents as necessary throughout the school year. This may take the form of presentations to Catholic School Councils, staff, and pupils on an individual or group basis.
Two Head Lice Information/Training kits developed by the York Region Public Health Services are available for loan through the York Catholic District School Board Central Resource Library.
- 2.4 When a pupil is suspected/identified as having pediculosis:
- a) The principal or delegate will attempt to contact the parent/guardian and request that the pupil be treated as soon as possible. If feasible, the parent/

guardian should pick up the child and commence treatment. If this is not feasible, then the child should be removed from the classroom to an environment that is sensitive to the feelings of the child.

- b) The principal shall send home the notice "A Message To Families About Head Lice". Additional information may be made available to parents/guardians at the discretion of the Principal.
 - c) The principal may, if felt necessary, encourage parents/guardians to contact York Region Public Health Services for clarification and/or assistance.
 - d) The parent/guardian is to be advised that the pupil will only be readmitted to class after parent/guardian has contacted the principal or designate to confirm that treatment has been administered and the pupil is free of pediculosis.
- 2.6 Where parents support the withdrawal for treatment purposes, the pupil may be excused from attendance at school under Clause 20(2) (b) of the Education Act.
- 2.7 Where a parent/guardian has not taken effective treatment steps to remove the pediculosis:
- a) The principal may refer the parent/ guardian to the York Region Public Health Services, Public Health Nurses through the Health Connection line 1-800-361-5653 nurse, and inform the appropriate Superintendent of Schools.
 - b) Where in the opinion of the principal, a pupil should be excused from attendance at school under Clause 20(2) (b) of the Education Act and the parent/guardian refuses, then the principal may, under Clause 22(1) of the Act, suspend the pupil for conduct injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school. Only in the face of unusual circumstances such as persistent refusal on the part of the parent, should such exclusion be entertained.
- 2.8 Every effort should be made to reduce any possible absence from school due to incidence of pediculosis. An alternate approach may be to remove the pupil from the classroom environment to a suitable area for the pupil to complete assignments until a resolution is realized.

3. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- 3.1 It is assumed and expected that secondary school students accept responsibility for their own personal management. The incidence of pediculosis is not as prevalent in the secondary school population as it is in the elementary school population.
- 3.3 When a student is suspected of having pediculosis:
- a) The principal or delegate will remove the student from classes until the end of the day and send him/her home with a copy of the York Region Public Health Services information sheet "*The Facts of Lice*" outlining the treatment; or, if a parent or guardian is at home, attempt to send the student home at once with the pamphlet.
 - b) The student will only be readmitted to class upon a signed statement by the parent or guardian or other evidence to the principal that treatment has been administered and that the student is free of lice.

- 3.4 Where effective steps have not been taken to remove the pediculosis:
- a) The principal may seek the assistance of the Public Health Nurses at Health Connection 1-800-361-5653 and inform the Superintendent of Secondary Schools.
 - b) Where, in the opinion of the principal, a pupil should be excused from attendance at school under Clause 20(2)(b) of the Education Act and the parent/guardian refuses, then the principal may, under Clause 22(1) of the Act, suspend the pupil for conduct injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.
- 3.5
- a) Only in the face of unusual circumstances such as persistent refusal on the part of the student or parent, should such exclusion be entertained. Every effort should be made to reduce to a minimum, possible absence from school due to an incidence of pediculosis.
 - b) An alternate approach may be to remove the pupil from the classroom environment to a suitable area for the pupil to complete assignments until a resolution is realized.

4. ADULT STUDENTS

- 4.1 Where the student is 18 years of age or over he/she will be readmitted to school upon evidence satisfactory to the principal that treatment has been administered and the student is free of pediculosis. The parental requirements in this policy and procedure do not apply to students in this age category.

Approval by Board	<i>Date</i>
Effective Date	<i>Date</i>
Revision Dates	<i>Date</i>
Review Date	November 2015 <i>Date</i>

SAMPLE LETTERS TO PARENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child may have come in contact with pediculosis (head lice). Please check your child's head for live lice and/or their nits (eggs). If you find head lice, please use a treatment to kill the lice and remove all the nits from your child's hair before they return to school.

If you have any questions on the prevention, identification or treatment of head lice, please refer to the information sheet, "The Facts of Lice" sent home in September. For further information, you may contact the school principal or call the Public Health Nurses at Health Connection, 1-800-361-5653.

Sincerely,
Principal

IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT LETTER

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child appears to have pediculosis (head lice). School children are prone to getting head lice because they are frequently in head to head contact. Anyone can get head lice, regardless of cleanliness. Head lice are not a public health hazard as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance.

Please refer to the information sheet attached to this letter "The Facts of Lice". It contains information about the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice.

Please use a treatment on your child's hair as soon as possible. Readmission to school is contingent upon lice no longer being present and all the (nits) eggs have been removed.

For more information or advice on the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice, please contact the Public Health Nurses at Health Connection, 1-800-361-5653.

Sincerely,
Principal