

AP 336 - Community Approach to Lice

Purpose

The key responsibility for the control of head lice rests with the parent/guardian. The school has a role to play in educating staff, students, and parents about the early detection, treatment, and prevention of head lice infestations. The school shall make information on treatment options available.

Head lice infestation management procedures shall reflect current research on the detection and treatment of lice infestations. These procedures shall be reviewed on a regular basis.

All interventions should be collaboratively planned with parents/guardians. The dignity of the student and family shall be respected in the implementation of this policy.

Students with head lice infestations should not be excluded from school.

Procedure

Vancouver Island Health Authority, Public Health Nursing, and CALM will provide consultation services to schools to develop an education plan to address Lice Management. The Community Public Health Nurses will also participate with school personnel to address issues of persistent and chronic head lice infestations.

General Procedures

An education package will be available in each school with resources to assist schools and parents in head lice infestation management. This package is based on current research on effective detection and treatment of head lice infestations.

Procedures to be followed for suspected and confirmed head lice infestations are referred to in the student handbook/planner, in the education package, and on the [Vancouver Island Health Authority website](#).

Each school will develop a plan for dealing with head lice based on information/approaches contained in the education package. Information about head lice will be included in school newsletters in September and periodically throughout the school year.

1. Parent/student – Please notify your child’s school of suspected or confirmed infestations and follow the instructions for treatment in the school's educational package and on the [Vancouver Island Health Authority website](#).

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2. School administration – send a copy of letter B (in Education Package) home with all students in a class having an identified case of head lice infestation.
3. Chronic infestations - In difficult cases, a meeting between family and key school/community personnel may be needed to provide support and develop solutions which facilitate the student's continued attendance at school.

Adopted: September 29, 2004