



# Inverness Education Centre / Academy

Office of the Principal

P.O. Box 580, 59 Veterans Memorial Court  
Inverness, Nova Scotia  
BOE 1N0

Tel: 902-258-3700  
Fax: 902-258-3899

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we begin another school year, I would like to share some information with you in regards to the treatment and prevention of head lice that our school will be following.

Head lice are tiny insects and parasites of the human body which are most often attached to clean hair. They lay eggs called nits, which stick to the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Head lice spread most easily through direct head-to-head contact or through articles used on the head or in the hair, such as hats, combs, brushes, ponytail holders, etc. Head lice occur mostly in children.

Based on Public Health Services information, the following sequence of treatment is recommended to break the head lice cycle: Please note that **two treatments are required** in order to completely break the head lice cycle:

- Two (2) head lice treatments, spread apart with a period of 7-10 days between treatments or as directed by the product.
- 1st treatment - kills live head lice.
- Some lice may hatch but they are adolescent nits that cannot lay eggs.
- Combing and nit removal is required on a **daily** basis.
- 2nd treatment - kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle.

Please note the following guidelines that will be helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

- Notify the school administration if your child has head lice and keep school administration informed about head lice issues as they arise;
- Check your child's head regularly.
  - once a week as part of your routine
  - after every sleepover
  - every day during lice outbreaks at school
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.
- Teach your child not to share personal items that are used on their head. This means things like brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, elastics, towels, hats, helmets, toques, and scarves.
- Teach your child to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off at school.

When there is a suspected case of head lice, the Principal will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s). The student who is suspected of having live head lice will be sent home for treatment. The student may return to school after the first treatment in accordance with Public Health recommendations. A notice will be sent home to all parents/guardians of students in the affected class when there is a confirmed case of head lice. In some cases, a reminder notice will be sent home school wide.

Our school and the Strait Regional School Board is committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head



lice. Our focus is on the treatment and prevention of head lice in an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school, in accordance with healthcare standards.

For more information, please find enclosed a copy the Strait Regional School Board brochure, *Head Lice: An Information Guide for Parents/Guardians and School Communities*.

If at any time you require further support on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Carol Smith  
Principal





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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Smith  
Principal

### Additional Information

More information on head lice may be accessed through a variety of Public Health resources and offices, including:

- **Pamphlet:** *How to Prevent, Find, and Treat Head Lice*
- **Website:** [www.gov.ns.ca/hpp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp)
- **HealthLink** by dialing 811

### Local Public Health Offices

Public Health	Contact Number
Antigonish Public Health Services	902-867-4500 ext. 4800
Arichat Public Health Services	902-226-2944
Canso Public Health Services	902-366-2925
Cheticamp Public Health Services	902-224-2410
Guysborough Public Health Services	902-533-3502
Inverness Public Health Services	902-258-1920
Mulgrave Medical Centre	902-747-2211
Port Hawkesbury Public Health Services	902-625-1693
Sherbrooke Public Health Services	902-522-2212

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### Assistance in Treating Head Lice

Parents/Guardians who are experiencing difficulties in addressing head lice issues in their homes should notify their Principal of the situation. Principals may assist the families in accessing the specific supports that they require, such as additional information and/or means of obtaining head lice treatments. At all times, the confidentiality, dignity and best interest of the student and family will be respected.

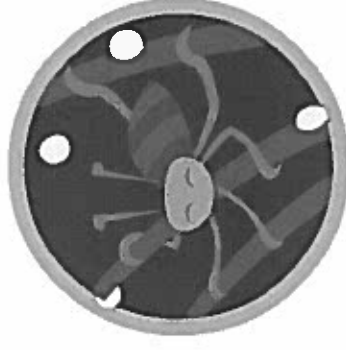
### School Procedures for Head Lice Issues

Each school will follow the general head lice guidelines outlined in this pamphlet and tailor their school's specific head lice procedures to meet the needs of their school communities. School-specific information may be obtained from the school office, via the school website, or through other information updates provided by the school.

Strait Regional School Board  
Programs and Student Services

## Head Lice

# An Information Guide for Parents/Guardians and School Communities



**Strait Regional School Board**  
Excellence in Lifelong Learning

16 Cemetery Road  
Port Hastings, NS B9A 1K6  
902-625-2191/1-800-650-4448 (P)  
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## Introduction

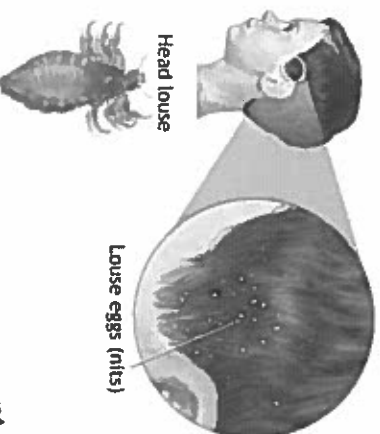
The Strait Regional School Board acknowledges that head lice are a common condition that can affect anyone and may appear in school communities at any time. The handling of head lice issues in school communities is a shared responsibility between the school, parents/guardians and Public Health departments. Therefore, the Strait Regional School Board's guidelines for addressing head lice issues in school communities conform to Public Health recommendations.

With all partners working together collaboratively, head lice issues may be addressed in a discreet and effective manner that:

- focuses on the best interest of students;
- respects the dignity and confidentiality of students and families dealing with head lice issues; and
- minimizes the time that students are absent from school due to head lice issues.

## Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Check their child for head lice on a regular basis (e.g. weekly; after a sleepover; every day during head lice outbreaks at school);
- Notify the school administration if their child has head lice;
- Treat their child's head lice as necessary; and
- Keep school administration informed about head lice issues as they arise.



\*ADAM

## School Staff Responsibilities

- Notify school administration of any suspected or confirmed cases of head lice observed at school.

## Principal's Responsibilities

- Notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) when there is the suspicion that the student has head lice;
- Suggest to parent(s)/guardian(s) that other members of their household be checked for head lice;
- Arrange for students who are suspected of having live head lice to be sent home for treatment by the parent(s)/guardian(s);
- Provide parents/guardians with access to information and assistance in addressing head lice issues, such as brochures and pamphlets from Public Health partners;
- Permit a student with head lice to return to school after the first treatment in accordance with Public Health recommendations;
- Following treatment, permit students who are suspected of having nits to remain at school;
- Send a notice home to all parent(s)/guardian(s) of students in the affected class when a student in has a confirmed case of head lice;
- Work with all partners to address head lice issues in a collaborative and sensitive manner that respects the dignity, confidentiality and best interests of students and their families.