



York Catholic District School Board

PROCEDURE:

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Addendum to Policy 210: Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Effective: February, 2026

PURPOSE

The following procedures are developed to assist staff, parents/guardians, and students with the identification, treatment and prevention of pediculosis (head lice), while minimizing disruption to learning and ensuring the dignity and privacy of students.

1. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- 1.1 The Principal shall communicate information about pediculosis (head lice) at the beginning of each school year (refer to Appendix A) and advise parents/guardians of the resources posted on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.
- 1.2 The Principal shall review the Pediculosis (Head Lice) policy with staff and the Catholic School Council at the beginning of each school year (refer to Appendix A) and advise staff and Catholic School Council of the resources posted on the school's website.
- 1.3 When a student is suspected/identified as having pediculosis (head lice):
 - 1.3.1 The Principal or delegate shall notify the parent/guardian to begin appropriate treatment.
 - 1.3.2 Students shall not be excluded from school solely for the presence of head lice or nits.
 - 1.3.3 Staff shall take reasonable measures to minimize close head-to-head contact when a student is suspected of having head lice.

2. SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ADULT STUDENTS

- 2.1 When a student is suspected/identified as having pediculosis (head lice):
 - 2.1.1 The secondary/adult student shall begin appropriate treatment promptly and shall notify the Principal or designate when treatment has begun.
 - 2.1.2 Absence from school shall be minimized and shall not be required solely due to the presence of head lice or nits.

SAMPLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER INSERT

The York Catholic District School Board understands that head lice can be a concern for students and families. While head lice do not cause illness or pose a public health risk, they can be uncomfortable and spread easily.

To help prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school, we all need to work together:

- Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice or nits.
- If lice or nits are found, treatment should begin promptly, and students may continue attending school during treatment.
- Please notify the Principal or designate once treatment has started to help us monitor and reduce further spread.

Resources on the identification, treatment, and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) from the Canadian Paediatric Society and York Region Public Health are available on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.