



Head Lice

The Park West School Division accepts that head lice in schools do not pose a health risk but recognizes the nuisance and upset caused by outbreaks. The Park West School Division, therefore, believes that outbreaks of head lice in schools should be minimized through education and support for students and families.

Guidelines

1. School principals, administering schools where head lice have been a problem, shall ensure that staff and parents are provided with information regarding head lice early in the school year.
2. Staff and parents are encouraged to be vigilant regarding possible head lice outbreaks and to communicate suspected cases to the school principal.
3. Children or students of all ages should be warned about the problems of sharing combs, barrettes, caps, scarves, or anything that can carry lice or nits.
4. Principals may require an examination of a child's scalp in a confidential manner and in a setting deemed appropriate by the principal.
5. Scalp examinations may be performed by staff, public health personnel, or trained volunteers as determined by the principal.
6. If it is determined that a head lice problem exists, the school principal shall ensure that a treatment protocol is shared with the child's parent.
7. It is not required that a student be removed from classes because of a head lice problem, however this may be necessary if prompt treatment is not carried out in the home.
8. Re-examinations of a child's scalp may be performed as determined by the principal.
9. School principals may encourage parents to contact local public health personnel for information and assistance.
10. School principals may also contact local public health personnel for assistance and/or training.

Definition:

Lice – Wingless insects with 6 legs that live on the human head.

Nits – Eggs of lice, attached to the hair shaft that may or may not be alive.