

New Lice Procedures



The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) is committed to ensuring that all reasonable efforts are made to protect the health and well-being of our students by creating awareness of head lice and preventing and/or minimizing the spread of head lice in the schools.

Head lice are wingless insects that live only on the scalp of human beings. They cannot fly or jump, and they are not found on cats, dogs or any other household pets. The bites from head lice can cause itching and scratching. Scratching may cause sores which can get infected. When children play, their heads often touch. Lice crawl from head to head. Head lice are spread by direct head to head contact only. (*Facts of Lice, 2003*, Hamilton Public Health and Community Services Department)

Based on the current medical research, it is essential that head lice be treated with two applications of an approved treatment seven days apart.

Procedures for when Head Lice is identified:

- 1) Parents/guardians of students identified with head lice will be notified by the school and will be required to seek treatment for the child.
- 2) Parents/guardians are required to complete the first application of an approved treatment prior to the student returning to school.
- 3) Parents/guardians are required to complete the *Verification of Treatment* form and return it to the school when the student returns following the first application of an approved treatment.
- 4) If the Principal has concerns that an individual case of head lice is an indication of a larger concern, the Principal may consult with the school's designated social worker.
- 5) All parents/guardians of students in a class in which a student or students are found to have head lice will be notified.
- 6) A school may designate a specific day or days for screening all students for head lice, using trained resource persons.
- 7) Parents are reminded to take responsibility to check their child's hair frequently and to co-operate by administering an approved treatments recommended by a pharmacist or medical practitioner when needed.

