

## **HEAD LICE and BED BUGS**

### **Belief**

Head lice, also known as pediculosis, and bed bugs can be controlled if treated rapidly and appropriately with thorough follow up.

### **Guidelines**

1. Lice and bed bug infestations have very little to do with cleanliness; they spread at random without discrimination.
2. The emotional reactions and stigma are due to the subject of many prejudices and myths. However, lice and bed bug infestations create a large nuisance factor and expense for parents.
3. The prime responsibility for the prevention of the spread of head lice and bed bugs lies with parents. However, it is important that parents, teachers and students cooperate fully in order to control any infestations.

### **Procedures**

4. Under direction of the Principal, school staff is to be as attentive as possible to head lice and bed bug education and prevention in their classroom (Form 316-1 and Form 316 – 3).
5. Principals will develop a site-based procedure for monitoring head lice and bed bugs at the school. Advice will be sought from the Public Health Nurse with regards to the development of a site-based monitoring procedure.
6. Students who are infested will be sent home with instructions on how to rid persons of head lice or the person's environment of bed bugs.
7. All classmates will receive a letter informing them of the incident including instructions on how to identify and treat for head lice or bed bugs (Form 316-2 or Form 316-4).
8. A student who is infested with head lice will be allowed to return to school after the student is treated, as defined by Alberta Health Services and either:
  - 8.1 A check by a trained staff member or a trained volunteer confirms that the student has been successfully treated.
  - 8.2 Written confirmation by a health professional (health unit nurse or physician) that the student has been successfully treated is presented to the school.

9. Bed bugs come from other infested areas or from used furniture. They can hitch a ride on clothes, in backpacks or other items placed on soft or upholstered surfaces. It is the student's environment that needs to be treated, not the student.
10. The Facility Manager must be notified of any bed bug infestation at a Division site so that a facility investigation can be performed to verify the presence or absence of bed bugs.
11. The Public Health Nurse is available to confidentially support families who require extra assistance in dealing with pediculosis and bed bug treatment, especially if it has re-occurred.

Reference: Section 18, 20, 45, 60, 61, School Act  
Public Health Act  
Forms: 316-1, 316-2, 316-3, 316-4