



**POLICY**

## **CDIP/HC Pediculosis Policy**

Policy Mgmt #: 7100 - PO - 0011

Version: 1.00

Date Approved: November 25, 2015

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Content Summary

<b>Covers</b>	This policy clarifies the role of Toronto Public Health Intake Staff and Healthy Schools and Substance Misuse Prevention Team (HSSMP) Liaison Public Health Nurses (LPHNs) regarding pediculosis interventions in relation to other pediculosis resources/services.
<b>Subject</b>	Pediculosis
<b>Superseded Documents</b>	N/A

### Dates

<b>Date of Publication</b>	December 18, 2015
<b>Effective Date</b>	November 25, 2015
<b>Reviewed Date</b>	November 25, 2015
<b>Next Review Date</b>	November 25, 2017

### People

<b>Issued by</b>	Healthy Schools and Substance Misuse Prevention (HSSMP), Healthy Communities
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### Revision History

Version #	Version Date	Issued by	Changes in Document
1.0	August 2006	Vincenza Pietropaolo	Updated links, clarified roles and responsibilities, removed statement regarding "no nit" policies.
V2.00	November 2015	Vincenza Pietropaolo	

### Approvals/ Approval process

Dept/Role	Name	Signatures	Approval Date
Healthy Schools and Substance Misuse Prevention Team Manager	Vincenza Pietropaolo		November 25, 2015
Healthy Communities /Director	Nicole Welch		November 25, 2015

## CONTENT

### 1. PURPOSE

To clarify the role of Toronto Public Health Intake Staff and Healthy Schools & Substance Misuse Prevention Team (HSSMP), liaison Public Health Nurses (LPHNs) regarding pediculosis interventions in relation to other pediculosis resources/services.

### 2. APPLIES TO

This policy primarily applies to Toronto Public Health Intake Staff and HSSMP LPHNs however, all staff working in schools should familiarize themselves with this policy.

### 3. EXCEPTIONS OR EXCLUSIONS

There are no exceptions or exclusions to the policy.

### 4. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Pediculosis: infestation with lice. For the purposes of this document, “pediculosis” will refer to infestation of the hair of the head by lice—*pediculosis capitis*

TDSB-Toronto District School Board

TCDSB- Toronto Catholic District School Board

LPHN- liaison Public Health Nurse

HSSMP- Healthy Schools and Substance Misuse Prevention

CPS- Canadian Paediatric Society

### 5. BACKGROUND

Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (1991), pediculosis (head lice infestation) is not on the list of “Communicable Diseases.” Under the Ontario Public Health Standards 2008 (revised May 1, 2014), there is no requirement/ mandate for health units to address head lice infestations. Pediculosis is considered a nuisance, but not a health hazard. It is, however, recognized that head lice infestations cause significant social distress. Therefore, Toronto Public Health will provide the following support:

- Head Lice Fact Sheet (available on TPH website in various languages)
- Consultation services (available from TPH Intake staff and HSSMP LPHNs)

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- Educational sessions to parents/caregivers and/or school staff by LPHNs (only in extreme situations)

Toronto school boards have their own individual policies and resources to manage pediculosis (see TPH Pediculosis Procedure – V.2.0 - Appendix A “Pediculosis Community Resources” pg. 4).

Resources to orient staff to the issue of pediculosis and their role in handling pediculosis-related inquiries are located here: *G:\HLH\HSSMP/pediculosis* and TPH website.

The resources provide the necessary background information on pediculosis and approved written and audiovisual materials to enable Intake staff and LPHN to respond to requests for information, consultation and linkage to resources related to pediculosis.

The “Head Lice Fact Sheet” has been developed for parents/caregivers and for school boards, schools, daycares, community agencies to print and/or distribute as needed.

The “Head Lice Presentation” has been developed for LPHNs when providing an educational session. **Educational sessions are not to be offered routinely.** If a school is having serious problems with an infestation or if the school requests prevention information, a LPHN may provide an educational session to parents/caregivers and/or school staff.

## 6. POLICY

Toronto Public Health does not have a mandatory role in the area of pediculosis as it is not within the Ontario Public Health Standards. However, Toronto Public Health will:

- Provide the most current information for handling head lice infestations on TPH website.
- Provide head lice consultation services via Intake staff and HSSMP LPHNs.
- Upon request, HSSMP program will consult with school boards and other partners on policies and procedures regarding pediculosis and handling of head lice infestations.

Based on the **Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)** recommendations, Toronto Public Health advocates that all efforts should be made to de-stigmatize pediculosis, for example:

- Adults checking heads should provide privacy for children.
- Children found to have head lice should not be singled out in front of their peers.
- Children found to have head lice should not be pulled out of class to be sent home mid-day.
- School administration or classroom teachers should provide appropriate information regarding the management of pediculosis to families.
- School administration or classroom teachers should alert parents of the class that there is an active case.
- School boards should refer to the CPS in developing policies to ensure their policy does not contribute to stigmatization of pediculosis.

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Toronto Public Health encourages settings to focus on the prevention of this nuisance condition through measures such as:

- Discouraging the sharing of personal articles and clothing (hats, scarves, brushes, combs, helmets, headphones, etc.).
- Keeping hats and scarves in coat sleeves or pockets.
- Individual well-spaced coat hooks or lockers.
- Young children having permanently assigned resting mats, towels or pillows.
- Vacuuming carpets or mats regularly.
- Advising parents/caregivers to check their child's head for head lice on a weekly basis.

## 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Toronto Public Health Intake Staff:

- Provide appropriate assessment and counselling to individuals/families/schools who call with inquiries about pediculosis.
- For extreme situations only, generate a referral for a liaison public health nurse to provide an educational session to parents/caregivers and/or school staff.

HSSMP liaison Public Health Nurses:

- Provide appropriate assessment and consultation to individuals/families/schools, when there is an inquiry about pediculosis.
- Link schools to School Board supports/resources if they haven't done so already.
- For extreme situations only, provide an educational session to parents/caregivers and/or school staff. **Educational sessions are not to be offered routinely.**

All TPH staff working in schools:

- Familiarize themselves with the TPH policy and procedures related to pediculosis and the pediculosis fact sheet.

## 8. RELATED POLICY DOCUMENTS

TPH Pediculosis Procedure 2.0

## 9. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/QUALITY ASSURANCE

This document will be reviewed every 5 years or when the Paediatric Society of Canada has made changes to their position statement – whichever occurs first.

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