



## Key Messages about Head lice

- Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease and are not considered a public health hazard
- No-nit policies in schools and childcares are discouraged by both the [Canadian Pediatric Society](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), however individual organizations and schools may enforce no-nit policies.
- Parents should check the heads of family members regularly and more frequently when lice have been identified in close contacts
- Teach children to avoid head-to-head contact during play and other activities at home, school and community involvement.
- Over-the-counter and prescription medications are available for treatment of lice infestations. Reapplication of topical insecticides 7-10 days later is recommended.

### **Suggested role of parents/guardians:**

- Take a proactive approach in understanding lice facts, myths, symptoms and management
- Teach children about the prevention of head lice
- Check the heads of family members regularly and more frequently when lice have been identified in close contacts
- Consult with pharmacist or physician before purchasing any treatment
- Only treat household members who actually have live lice
- Communicate with the school or child care if your child has become infested and when first treatment has been completed

### **The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit:**

- Can provide evidence-based information and resources, to school boards and childcare centres as needed
- Does not provide individual/mass screening (head checks) or treatment to individuals/groups
- Does not provide “clearance” or approval for students/children to return to school/child care

### **Recommended information for parents/guardians:**

[http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/head\\_lice](http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/head_lice)

[http://www.soinsdenosenenfants.cps.ca/handouts/head\\_lice](http://www.soinsdenosenenfants.cps.ca/handouts/head_lice)

<http://www.myhealthunit.ca/en/livehealthyandprotectyourhealth/headlice.asp>