

310 HEAD LICE & BED BUGS

Beliefs

The Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (MESC) follows cultural and traditional teachings of the Maskwacis Cree, in particular Wahkohtowin. Wahkohtowin is the belief that all things are related and connected, that all of existence has spirit and that living in a good way requires us to maintain good relationships with each other and other aspects of existence. We recognize that respect for mother earth, elders, youth, and the Treaties are paramount to planning ahead and making decisions for future generations.

The MESC believes that the health of students and staff is of utmost importance. Head lice, also known as pediculosis, and bed bugs can be controlled if treated rapidly and appropriately with thorough follow up. Lice and bed bug infestations have very little to do with cleanliness; they spread at random without discrimination. 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.

Procedures

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Principals will develop a site-based procedure for monitoring head lice and bed bugs at the school. When bed bugs are discovered, they will inform the Custodial Services Coordinator.

Head Lice

4. Students who may have been exposed to lice or nits outside of school or in school will receive a letter informing them of the incident (Form 310-1). For any students where it is suspected or confirmed that they may have contracted lice at home and/or in the community, the letter will include instructions on how to identify and treat head lice (Form 310-2).

Bed Bugs

5. Students who may have been exposed to bed bugs outside of school or in school will receive a letter informing them of the incident (Form 310-3). For any students where it is suspected or confirmed that they may have bed bugs in their home, the letter will include instructions on how to identify and treat bed bugs (Form 310-4).

Reference:

Form 310-1: Head Lice Letter

Form 310-2: Head Lice Treatment

Form 310-3: Bed Bug Letter

Form 310-4: Bed Bug Information and Treatment

Health Act