



# Surrey Teachers' Association

Providing Educational Leadership

Dear Members:

## **Re: Head Lice Infestations and WorkSafe B.C.**

WorkSafeBC will accept teacher claims for expenses incurred due to contacting Head Lice. WorkSafe B.C. will cover teachers if they have missed work due to the treatment schedule. The following is advice for members who contact Head Lice:

### **Recommendations for lice infestations**

- a) See your doctor without delay to confirm the diagnosis and confirm the time off work is for the treatment of the lice.
- b) Book any time off as sick leave. If the claim is accepted, WCB will reimburse the District and the member's sick time will be reinstated as per the collective agreement language. If this does not happen, the member should contact the Surrey Teachers' Association.
- c) Submit receipts to WCB for
  - i. topical treatment; and
  - ii. any other expenses that are necessary to remove the lice from clothing/bedding, jackets, ect, such as dry cleaning.
- d) Complete a WorkSafe B.C. Form 6a. (available from <https://www.surreyteachers.org> – Health, Safety and Wellness Section).
- e) Ensure that the Principal/Vice-Principal states that there is a lice problem at the school on the Form 7.

Under the *Workers Compensation Act*, workers have one year to make a claim to WorkSafeBC from the time of the injury or onset of an occupational disease. So members who had infestations within the past year can still make a claim. However, the claim will be unlikely to be successful unless there is evidence that the member contracted lice and lost time as a result. The best evidence for this is a doctor's visit at the time of the infestation.

Please contact the Health and Safety/Grievance Officer ( [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) ) if you have any questions or would like assistance in making a claim.