

ALBANY AREA SCHOOLS
SCHOOL POLICY FOR REPORTED HEAD LICE

PURPOSE

To identify head lice (pediculosis) cases, instruct parents/guardians on research-based treatment, prevent and control transmission.

VERIFICATION

1. The student's parent/guardian will be called to take the child home for treatment when school staff identify either live lice or nits within $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the scalp.
2. Students identified with nits farther than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the scalp will be allowed to remain in school. Health Office staff will verify with the parent/guardian that appropriate pediculosis treatment has occurred and review steps to prevent reinfestation.
3. After treatment, Health Office staff will continue to assess the student daily for a period of time, to determine whether a reinfestation of live lice has occurred.
 - a. Health Office staff will conduct a 4-5 minute check to assess for live lice and/or nits $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the scalp.
 - b. Health Office staff will not remove nits.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

1. A student will be excluded from school until their parent/guardian verifies that the child has been treated for pediculosis.
2. Students with live lice will be excluded from school.
3. In cases of an unresponsive or serial infestation, a student may be excluded for presence of nits at the discretion of the District Nurse.
4. Students will be excused for one day to accomplish pediculosis treatment. Subsequent excused absences related to the infestation will be at the discretion of the principal.

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

1. Vacuum floors, pillows or carpet squares in affected classrooms daily during an infestation.
2. Play clothing, linens or smocks worn by an infested child within two days before diagnosis should be washed in hot water and machine dried for at least 30 minutes.
3. Other affected articles should be sealed in a plastic bag for at least 14 days at room temperature or 24 hours below freezing temperatures.
4. It is not necessary to hire an exterminator, nor is it recommended to spray or fog the school with insecticides.

MANAGEMENT OF AFFECTED CLASSROOMS

1. Teach children not to share combs, brushes, hair ornaments, caps, scarves, headsets or other personal headgear.
2. Teach children to hang jackets separately, placing hats and scarves inside jacket sleeves.
3. Shared headgear (i.e. helmets) should be cleaned and disinfected with alcohol or other disinfectant before being issued to other students.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The school is responsible for developing procedures to support prevention, detection and control of pediculosis.
2. Management for lice cases will include:
 - a. School lice policy
 - b. Enforcement procedures for children with recurrent infestations
 - c. Designation of District Nurse to assess chronic or recurrent infestations
 - d. Distribution of current information about management of head lice
 - e. School principal and the District Nurse will determine at what point to inform parents/guardians when an infestation has been identified.
 - f. Mass screenings for head lice are not recommended by the scientific community and will not be conducted in the school. Management of head lice should not interrupt the education process.
3. Parents/guardians are responsible for:
 - a. Initial and follow-up treatment with pediculocide
 - b. Assessment and treatment of other family members
 - c. Daily nit removal until the infestation is successfully resolved
 - d. Treatment of home environment to prevent reinfestation

SERIAL INFESTATIONS

In the event of an unresponsive infestation of lice, the District Nurse will meet with the parent/guardian to assess potential barriers to successful eradication. She will develop a plan with the family to assist them with:

1. Effective treatment with a pediculocide
2. Mechanical removal of nits
3. Environmental treatment in their home

The District Nurse will follow up with the family to evaluate the plan and make any necessary corrections and accommodations.

When the above intervention does not result in eradication of lice, a referral to Stearns County Human Services will be initiated. School staff will continue to be involved with the family with the goal of expediting the student's return to his/her classroom.