

**Students**

**Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

**Purpose**

To have an age appropriate procedure for identifying, eliminating, and communicating incidents of pediculosis within the school setting.

**Procedure**

1. Notification/Communications
  - a. The goal of communication is to keep the parent/guardian informed and educated using fact-based evidence regarding pediculosis (head lice/nits) in the school and community.
  - b. Upon the identification of head lice (live infestation(bugs)/nits(eggs)) in a school, the parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and the student will be excluded to begin the appropriate treatment.
  - c. An informational letter regarding Head Lice/Nits will be sent home at the beginning of each school year requesting that parents/guardians continually check their children's head and contact the school nurse if they have any questions/concerns.
  - d. Additional notices will be sent home by the building supervisor to inform parents/guardians of active cases. The school nurse is responsible for informing the Principal/Building Supervisor of active head lice/nits.
2. Identification
  - a. When pediculosis (head lice/nits) is identified by a parent/guardian, it is their responsibility to notify the school nurse so that appropriate inspections and communications can be done.
  - b. When pediculosis (head lice/nits) is suspected by school staff members, it is their responsibility to inform the school nurse or in his/her absence, the building supervisor.
3. Inspection
  - a. Suspected cases that are brought forth by school staff members will have their head's thoroughly inspected by the school nurse in the privacy of the nurse's office.
  - b. Students or staff who have had direct contact with the student identified as having a head lice/nit infestation, will also be screened.
4. Exclusion
  - a. Parent/Guardian will be contacted immediately if a student is found to have an active head lice/nit infestation so that treatment can be started immediately.
  - b. The parent/guardian is responsible for informing after-school program, babysitters, or daycare providers when head lice/nits are detected.

5. Treatment

- a. Treatment of pediculosis (head lice/nits) is the parent/guardian's responsibility.
- b. The school nurse should encourage the parent/guardian to contact their family doctor or local pharmacist for treatment options.
- c. Additional educational materials will be provided to parents/guardians upon request.

6. Re-Entry

- a. Parents/guardians will be informed of the need to bring their child in to be inspected by the school nurse before they are allowed back into the classroom.
- b. Students with repeated episodes of head lice/nits will be referred to their family physician.

7. Monitoring/Re-Evaluation

- a. School nurses are available to provide information to families, staff, and students regarding the prevention and treatment of head lice/nits. (DVD : "Head Lice: An Itchy Problem" as well as information from the CDC and AAP).
- b. Families will be encouraged to monitor and inspect for Pediculosis (head lice/nits) on a continual basis.
- c. Students or staff will be checked at any time if head lice or nits are suspected.