

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE—PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)**

When an active case of head lice is noted, the Principal or School Nurse will inform the student's parents and advise them of treatment options.

The following procedure will be followed:

1. Notification

The School Nurse or Building Administrator will call parent or guardian to discuss the condition.

2. Recommendation

- a. Minor infestation – may remain in school that day but must be treated, before returning to school.
- b. Severe infestation (visible lice) – must go home immediately and be treated, before returning to school.

3. Treatment

- a. Use a prescription or over-the-counter lice shampoo on all affected family members and close contacts regardless of the obvious presence of live lice.
- b. Remove all nits with your fingers or comb.
- c. Vacuum the furniture, mattresses and rugs in your home as well as the seats and rugs in your car.
- d. Wash clothes, hats, scarves, coats, sheets, blankets and pillowcases in hot water and dry in hot dryer or as warm a temperature as the items will stand.
- e. Put stuffed animals and pillows in a hot dryer for 30 minutes or seal in dark plastic bags for four to five days.
- f. Soak combs, brushes, hair-bands and all hair ornaments in hot water with pesticide shampoo for 15 minutes.

4. Re-Admittance to School

The parent will schedule an appointment with the School Nurse or an experienced staff member for re-admittance to school after the parent has treated the child and removed all live lice.

The control of pediculosis involves three main functions of the School Nurse:

1. Screening
2. Referral for treatment
3. Education

The goal is to minimize as much absenteeism as possible.

The School Nurse will check other family members and parents, if requested. This is an ideal time to educate parents about head lice and what eggs (nits) look like, to answer questions, and to make recommendations.

Whenever a case of pediculosis is identified, the School Nurse or experienced personnel, as a minimum, will screen siblings and classmates of the student.

Every effort is made to maintain the confidentiality of all identified students, since this childhood condition causes many emotional reactions from others. If it becomes apparent that parents are unwilling to treat their child(ren), the Nurse will notify administration and additional actions will be considered.

Information about head lice is sent home to parents at the start of the school year and as needed. September is Pediculosis Month. Teachers and parents are reminded yearly about the need to remind children to maintain their own space (as little head touching as possible), to not share hats, scarves, combs, brushes, hair clips, or headgear. Parents are reminded that keeping a child's hair braided or tied up, while in school, can help prevent the spread of head lice. Contrary to popular opinion, head lice are not often contracted in the school setting. It is much more commonly caught from participation in social activities like sleepovers.