

Albemarle County Public Schools Lice Standard Operating Procedure

Based on the revised recommendations of the CDC, AAP and NASN, ACPS will follow the following procedures when managing head lice infestations in schools.

When a student is found to have live lice:

- 1) The student's parent(s) will be notified by telephone, if possible, and information will be sent home about detecting and treating head lice. The school nurse may use professional judgment to determine if the student may be permitted to remain in school until the end of the school day or be sent home upon discovery of lice (a few lice vs. hundreds).
- 2) The parent will receive instructions on how to detect and treat head lice and will be informed that the student may not return to school until undergoing an appropriate treatment.
- 3) The student will be examined upon returning to school and will not be permitted to return to class if *live* lice are detected. Parents will be instructed to remove all *live* lice before the student may return to class.
- 4) If nits or eggs are found, the parent will be instructed to continue to work toward removing them, especially those close to the scalp (within 1cm) but the student may remain in school.
- 5) The school nurse will check the student in 10 days and the student will be excluded again for live lice.

When a student is found to have nits/eggs but no live lice:

- 1) The parent will be notified by telephone, if possible and by letter if not, and encouraged to check the student frequently for the presence of live lice and to minimize the chances of infestation by removing nits/eggs.
- 2) The student will NOT be excluded from school.
- 3) The nurse will check the student again in 7 days and the student will be excluded for live lice as above but not for nits/eggs only.

Screening or checking beyond the student with an identified infestation:

- 1) If the student has siblings in the school, those siblings may be checked and the above procedures will be followed for evidence of live lice or nits.
- 2) Other close contacts may be checked per the judgment of the school nurse.
- 3) The nurse may check all classmates *if* there is evidence that more than one classmate is infested.
- 4) Entire grade or school screening will not be done routinely. In the rare cases involving widespread infestation, the school nurse may use professional judgment in determining when to conduct more extensive head checking or screening.

Classroom environment:

- 1) Normal cleaning and vacuum procedures will be followed.
- 2) Pesticides will not be used in the classroom.
- 3) Students will be instructed to avoid sharing hats, combs and hair accessories, as well as to avoid direct head to head contact.
- 4) Since head lice do not live long on inanimate objects, efforts to separate coats and backpacks do not need to occur.
- 5) The school nurse may use judgment when unusual measures should be undertaken due to widespread infestation.

Notification Procedure

- 1) Parents of students with live lice or nits only will be notified as stated above.
- 2) If a parent cannot be reached at home, notification will be via the student in a sealed envelope or via certified mail.
- 3) The school nurse and principal may determine if a general notification to parents of classmates is warranted. Sending letters to entire grades or the entire school is discouraged.

Exclusion procedures in cases of chronic lice:

Because the presence of severe infestations of untreated head lice can be disruptive to the educational environment, cases of chronic lice will be handled on a case by case basis in consultation with the school nurse, principal, school nurse coordinator and advising physician panel or health department. Measures may include:

- Continued support of the family in attempting eradication
- Provision of effective lice treatment kits if financial hardship is suspected
- Referral to physician for additional support
- School nurse assistance with the manual removal of live lice with such devices as a robi-comb
- Recommendation of short haircuts (buzz or crew cut for boys – short cuts for girls)
- Extended monitoring with daily checks over time
- Repeated school exclusion for active infestations with no progress toward eradication

Additional considerations

- Confidentiality must be maintained for students identified with lice.
- Confidential record logs with *cases, dates of onset, treatment and follow-up* will be kept in a secure place and shredded at determined intervals.