



Lice Management Policy

Policy

The Lice Management Policy will be under the direction of the School Nurse, Division Heads, and Medical Director.

Definitions

Lice

Tiny grey to brown insects about the size of a sesame seed that live in human hair and feed on human blood to survive. Lice do not fly or jump, but crawl. (1)

Nits

Tiny white oval-shaped eggs about the size of a knot in a thread attached to strands of hair.

Symptoms

- Itching of the scalp
- Scalp rash may be present
- Unlike dandruff, psoriasis, or other dermatologic conditions, nits cannot be shaken off the hair shaft

Lifespan

- Nits that are attached more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the base of the hair shaft are almost always non-viable. (2)
- Nits hatch into live lice in 7 – 10 days.
- Off the scalp, nits cannot survive more than 2 weeks.
- Adult lice can survive 3 weeks on the scalp or 24 hours off the scalp.



Head Lice Protocol

- Trinity Valley School has established a no-nit policy. Students with suspected lice/nits will be sent to the clinic for evaluation. If lice or nits are observed, the student will be sent home as per the Head Lice protocol.
- The child's parent or guardian should be notified upon identification by telephone, stating that prompt, proper treatment of this condition is in the best interest of the child and his or her classmates. The parent/guardian must pick-up student from the clinic as soon as possible. (2)
- There are many acceptable treatment options; however, treatment with a product that is both a pediculicide as well as ovicidal is the only way to successfully kill lice and prevent further re-infestation. Over the counter treatments are not always effective. They may kill the lice, but will not take care of the nits. (1)
- Notification letters will be sent home to alert grade level parents whenever a confirmed case of head lice has been identified.
- Re-admittance to the classroom the next day following treatment requires that a parent or guardian must escort student to the Nurse's Office the next day following treatment for a head check. Proof of an acceptable treatment option must be presented as well.

Administrative Roles

Division Head

- Will ensure that the Lice Management policy is in place and reviewed periodically.
- Make confidential space available for implementing the Lice Management policy in each occupied school building.
- Will understand and support that class head checks do not have any scientific basis for being done, and are not good use of School Nurse or classroom time. (2) Teachers will send students with suspected cases of head lice to the clinic.

Medical Director

- Provide staff and parents with new and changing information on head lice infestations and treatments. (2)
- Take an active role as an information resource for families, schools, and other community agencies. (2)



School Nurse

- Educate school staff regarding head lice causes, treatment, and symptoms
 - Getting head lice is not related to cleanliness of the person or his/her environment.
 - Head lice are mainly spread by direct contact with the hair of an infested person.
 - Head lice are not known to transmit disease. (2)
 - Head lice move by crawling, not hopping or flying.
 - Head lice are not reportable to the public health departments unless there are other communicable disease related concerns.
- Check a student's head for lice and nits if he/she is demonstrating symptoms, being sure to provide for the student privacy.
- Educate students and their families about how to prevent lice and what to do if a family member has lice.
- Collaborate with the Public Health Department or other resources in planning assistance to families who have chronic infestation. (3)

Parents

- Examine child's head, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck for crawling lice and nits.
- All household members should be examined if lice or nits are found on a family member. Only those with evidence of an infestation should be treated. (1, 2, 4)
- Head lice treatment must be followed exactly as instructed on the package.
- Removal of all nits after successful treatment with a pediculicide is not necessary.
- Soak all combs and brushes in very hot water for about 1 hour.
- Wash sheets, blankets, and bedding in hot water.
- Seal stuffed animals in a plastic bag for 1 week or, if possible, wash in hot water.
- Vacuum carpets, furniture, and mattresses thoroughly.
- Retreat hair according to treatment protocol if further infestation is identified.

Amy H. Coats, RN, BSN

School Nurse



Dr. Hannah Smitherman
TVS Medical Director

Sandy McNutt
Head of Lower School

Donald C. North
Head of School
February 2, 2016

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2010)
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/>
2. Frankowski, B. L., & Bocchini, J.A., and Council on School Health and Committee on Infectious Diseases. (2010). Head Lice. *Pediatrics*, 126, 392. Available at:
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/2/392.full.html>
3. National Association of School Nurses
http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/HFLL_guide_2015.pdf
4. University of Texas, School of Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner Program. (2008) *Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pediculosis capitis (head lice) in children and adults 2008*. Austin (TX): University of Texas, School of Nursing