

Craven County Schools

Procedure for the Management of Head Lice

Definitions:

- Head lice- Tiny white or yellow insects that feed off human blood and live close to human scalp. They cannot jump or fly and do not spread disease. Some untreated cases can lead to localized scalp infections due to scratching. Lice can live up to 30 days on scalp or up to two days on other surfaces.
- Nits-Head lice eggs that attach to shaft of hair, usually close to scalp. Generally hatch after 8-9 days. Cannot be removed with over-the counter treatment. Have to be removed manually or with prescription medication.

Procedures:

- Any student suspected of having head lice as evidenced by visual assessment of live lice, verbal statements of having lice and/or complaints of itching, tingling or feeling something crawling on scalp should be referred to the school nurse or trained personnel.
- School nurse or trained personnel will perform thorough examination of scalp for lice.
- If lice are present (nits or live lice), then the parents/guardians will be made aware.
- The student is **not** to be sent home early from school or excluded from the classroom; however, education will be provided to the student and staff to limit head-to-head contact and prevent sharing of headwear or sports head gear until treatment is provided.
- The student will be allowed to return to school once treatment has been provided and parents have provided proof of treatment with box top from medication, notes from provider, etc.
- The student is **not** to ride bus on the day of return. The parent/guardian must wait with student while inspection of scalp is performed by school nurse or trained staff.
- Protection of the student's privacy is strongly encouraged. Mass screenings will not routinely be performed, unless deemed necessary in a given situation by the school nurse. Instead, all possible contacts to the student will be screened and the circle of students screened will be enlarged based on findings.

Reporting:

All staff are responsible for reporting suspected head lice infestation to school nurse or designated staff and are encouraged to do so in a discreet manner.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013, September 24). Parasites. Retrieved February 13, 2019, from <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>

National Association of School Nurses. (2017, October 6). Frequently Asked Questions About Lice. Retrieved February 13, 2019, from <https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=a2701f7b-d015-7bb7-d652-a7ac1ed5b7d9&forceDialog=0>