

Category Recommended

HEAD LICE / PEDICULOSIS

This policy is adopted to carry out the provisions of RSA [200:39](#).

Pediculosis: Screening. Based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Board recognizes that head lice or nit infestation poses little risk to others and does not result in additional health problems, and that students with nits and/or head lice should not be excluded from school. The Board recognizes that school-wide screening for nits alone is not an accurate way of predicting which children will become infested with head lice, and screening for live lice has not been proven to have a significant decrease on the incidence of head lice in a school community.

The school nurse will periodically provide information to families of all children on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. Parents are encouraged to check their children's heads for lice if the child is symptomatic.

Management on the Day of Diagnosis. The management of pediculosis should proceed so as to not disrupt the education process. Nonetheless, any staff member who suspects a student has head lice may report this to the school nurse, the Principal or designee. The school nurse may check a student's head if the student is demonstrating symptoms. Students known to have head lice will remain in class provided the student is comfortable. If a student is not comfortable, they may report to the school nurse or principal's office. Such students will be discouraged from close direct head contact with others and from sharing personal items with other students.

Siblings of students found with lice and their classmates will also be checked if there is suspicion that infestation may exist.

The Principal, designee or school nurse will notify the parent/guardian by telephone or other available means if their child is found to have head lice. Verbal and/or written instructions for treatment will be given to the family of each identified student. Instructions will include recommendations for treatment that are consistent with New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services recommendations. In addition, the school nurse may offer extra help or information to families of children who are repeatedly or chronically infested.

Criteria for Return to School. Once a student with "live lice" has left the school, they shall be allowed to return after proper treatment as recommended by the school nurse has begun. The school nurse may recheck a child's head for live infestation.

Legal Reference:

RSA 200:32, Physical Examination of Pupils

RSA 200:38, Control and Prevention of Communicable Diseases: Duties of School Nurse

RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School

American Academy of Pediatrics, Clinical Report on Head Lice Infestation, September 2002

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;110/3/638>

1st Reading: August 28, 2012
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