

Plymouth Canton Public Schools
Administrative Guidelines

8451 - PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Head lice are small parasitic insects that live on the scalp. Head lice do not transmit disease. Head lice can be spread by direct contact with infested hair and less frequently by contact with shared objects such as combs, hats, and other hair accessories. The following guidelines are designed to manage head lice in the school setting and to reduce student absenteeism due to head lice.

Recommended Procedures

Student identified during school hours to have an active case of head lice:

- A. Parent will be notified that student has live lice.
- B. Student may return to class but is restricted from activities involving close head-to-head contact or sharing personal items with other children. **Immediate removal of the student is unnecessary.**
- C. If student is not picked up by parent during the school day, the student will be sent home at the end of the day and should be allowed to ride the bus home.
- D. Information regarding treatment of head lice at home will be sent home with the student or given to parent when student is picked up from school.

Student with suspected case of head lice returns to school:

- A. Parent or guardian must accompany their student to the school office with confirmation of treatment.
- B. Designated school personnel will re-examine the student's hair:
 - 1. Student will be re-admitted to school if no live lice are found.
 - 2. If live lice are found and not removed, the student will not be re-admitted to class.

Parent will be given information about lice removal techniques.

3. Any student with no live lice, but nits farther than one-quarter (1/4) inch from the scalp, should return to class.
 4. If nits are found within one-quarter (1/4) inch of scalp, parents will be educated about the need for removal of those potentially viable eggs. Student will return to class. School personnel will recheck for lice and nits the next school day to verify removal of potentially viable nits.
- C. Periodic checks of the student's hair by designated school personnel shall be done over the next few weeks to assure successful treatment. Student confidentiality will be maintained.
- D. Parent will be requested to continue daily lice checks and nit removal (if needed) at home for the next two (2) to three (3) weeks.

Any student with nits (farther than one-quarter inch from scalp) will be allowed to stay in school.

Recurrent or chronic cases of head lice (Continued active infestation after appropriate treatment has started, persistent infestation after six (6) consecutive weeks, or three (3) separate cases for an individual within one (1) school year)

** A multidisciplinary group consisting of parent, teacher, administration, and school nurse will determine the best approach to resolving the issue and improve school attendance.*

Parent Education:

Information on head lice will be available on the District website, on school websites, and in school offices.

Additional information:

- A. Classroom screenings for head lice will not be done as recommended by the CDC, MDCH and MDE.
- B. Student confidentiality will be maintained.
- C. Students with a chronic case of head lice will be referred to the school nurse.

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