

Hamilton Wenham School District Pediculosis Procedures

According to the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the management of pediculosis should not disrupt the educational process. No disease is associated with head lice and in-school transmissions are rare. Lice are the result of direct head-to-head contact. Education and treatment remain the forefront of our approach to controlling pediculosis in the schools.

Treatment: It is recommended by the CDC, upon initial infestation, an over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription medication be used. It is important that when using a pediculicide, the parent or guardian reads the specific directions provided as each treatment could differ. **In addition, a conditioner and shampoo with conditioner should not be used immediately before or after treatment as it reduces the effectiveness of the treatment.**

Hamilton Wenham School Health Services will periodically educate parents via newsletters and health services website on the importance of checking for lice. Parents should inform the School Nurse if their child has head lice.

Hamilton Wenham School Nurses will approach the problem through *Education and Monitoring*

When a student is suspected to have pediculosis the School Nurse will:

- Examine the student's head. If live (crawling) lice and/or nits are found the school nurse will contact the parent/guardian to set up a meeting (either in person or on the phone) before the end of the school day. At the nurse's discretion, the student may return to class.
- Give the parent/guardian informational material on how to handle head lice. Encourage parent/guardian to notify close contacts. The school nurse will not recommend a specific pediculicidal treatment but will advise parents/guardians to consult with their primary care provider or pharmacist for advice on proper use of approved treatment.
- Document examination (Pediculosis Exam), recommendation for treatment/follow-up and subsequent actions taken in the electronic health record.

After treatment and upon the student's return to school, the School Nurse will:

- Re-examine the student upon return to school and 7 to 10 days later as needed and determine the success of the treatment.

Resources: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/head-lice-pediculosis#:~:text=Head%20lice%20are%20not%20known,generally%20considered%20a%20health%20hazard.>

American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/from-insects-animals/Pages/signs-of-lice.aspx>

National Association of School Nurses

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-head-lice>