

# Pequannock Township School District

## MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS INFORMATION PACKET

### HEALTH SERVICES PROTOCOL FOR PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice)

#### IDENTIFICATION

**Physical findings:** The presence of nits (small round or oval specks which adhere to the hair shaft and will not flick off as with dandruff) or the presence of lice (tiny insects that are grayish tan in color on the scalp).

#### ***Signs and Symptoms:***

- Tickling feeling on the scalp or in the hair
- Itching (caused by the bites of the louse)
- Irritability and difficulty sleeping (lice are more active in the dark)
- Sores on the head (caused by scratching, which can sometimes become infected)

**TREATMENT** - Parents/guardians are to consult their doctor and/or pharmacist for specific instructions on appropriate treatment for their child.

**MANAGEMENT** - Confidentiality should be a primary consideration for the child and his/her family. When a case of lice is reported to the school or identified by the school nurse, the following is to be done by the school nurse.

1. Grades Preschool through Five – When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all children in a class will be notified by the school nurse. The Principal will send home a copy of a Head Lice Alert Notice, the school district's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and the Policy to all parents of children in the class;

a. Treatment should only be performed on their child if active head lice or nits are found in their child's scalp and treatment should not be applied as a preventative measure. Parents are expected to notify the school nurse if they find active head lice or nits in their child's scalp. The school nurse will perform a head check of any student if requested by the parent.

b. The school nurse will perform head checks of all students in a classroom where there are three or more active head lice cases or nits in the same classroom within a two week period.

2. Grades Six through Eight - When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of children in a class or on a team may be sent a Head Lice Alert Notice, the school district's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and the Policy at the discretion of the Principal or designee and the school nurse. Parents may request information regarding head lice from the school nurse. The school nurse will perform a head check of any student if requested by the parent.

3. Grades Nine through Twelve - When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of children in a class or on a team may be sent a Head Lice Alert Notice, the school district's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and the Policy at the discretion of the Principal or designee and the school nurse. Parents may request information regarding head lice from the school nurse. The school nurse will perform a head check of any student if requested by the parent.

**Exclusions:** A student who is found to have active head lice will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active lice in the student's hair, proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse, and until all live and/or dead head lice are removed from the student's hair as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse.

**Readmission:** The child will be readmitted after the school nurse has determined that the child has received adequate treatment and is lice-free. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse may be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent/guardian.

The presence of nits (the eggs of lice) without active head lice will not prohibit a child from attending school provided proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse and there is no evidence of active head lice in the student's hair

**Notification of parents:** When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all children in a class will be notified by the school nurse and/or principal. The Principal will send home a copy of a Head Lice Alert Notice, the Management of Pediculosis Information Packet, and the Board of Education Policy 8454- Management of Pediculosis.

In addition, anytime the school nurse has identified active head lice, the school nurse may conduct a head check of other students in the school who are most likely to have had head-to-head contact with the infested child. These students may include, but are not limited to, classmates in the Resource Center, mainstream classes, after school programs, and on the same bus. All other students to be checked shall be identified by the school nurse in consultation with the school administration. Parental approval shall be obtained by the Principal or designee or school nurse.