

LCCS Board of Trustees

Health Services - Lice Policy

2/27/2014

Health Services - Head Lice Procedures

Public schools have a responsibility to assist parents in controlling and preventing the spread of communicable disease. The School Nurse has certain authorities for communicable and "nuisance" disease control in the school environment. Careful observation by all personnel and parents will help minimize the spread of head lice.

PROCEDURE

Early in each school year, the school administration shall send home to parents information regarding the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. Parents will be encouraged to help prevent the spread of head lice by being more informed and conducting routine head checks on their children. Children should be referred to their home physician if their infestation persists.

1. To help prevent the spread of head lice infestations, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse. The nurse shall examine the student. An infestation shall be determined by looking closely through the hair and scalp for nits or live lice.
2. If nits are found but there are no live (crawling) lice on the hair, the nurse shall re-inspect regularly for 2 weeks. The School Nurse may use her or his own discretion in deciding whether to exclude students found to have numerous nits.
3. If an active infestation is present (based on the presence of live lice), the parent/guardian shall be notified to arrange pick up of their child from school. The parent/guardian shall be provided information on the biology of head lice, methods to eliminate infestation, and directions to examine household contacts for lice and nits.
4. The school nurse shall then examine the affected student's siblings, if any, and others likely to have had close head-to-head contact, such as classmates. A letter will be sent home with classmates asking parents to check their children's heads.
5. Parents/guardians are to confirm verbally or in writing that treatment has occurred. Before re-admittance to the classroom, the School Nurse will examine the student's head for live lice.
6. If no live lice are found, the student may return to the classroom. If nits are found, the school nurse shall regularly and periodically re-inspect the student for the presence of live lice until no nits are present.
7. If live lice are found, the student will be returned home for further treatment. The student should be referred to their health care provider if resistance to treatment is suspected.
8. The School Nurse shall educate parents on the importance on ongoing daily combing with a metal nit comb until lice and nits are completely eradicated.
9. The School Nurse will review methods of control with the classroom teachers.
Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.
10. If the School Nurse's schedule permits, s/he may check school staff and parents of affected children if they so request. This is a courtesy as part of the education process related to this issue.
11. LCCS strongly encourages parents to report cases of head lice in their own children so that any spread can be contained. LCCS also maintains the position that, while head lice are a nuisance, they are not a health risk or indication of any condition other than exposure to another case of head lice.

Health Services - Head Lice Procedures

Medical Reference: Legal References: Cross References:

American Academy of Pediatrics Harvard School of Public Health National Association of School Nurses

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-7 N.J.S.A. 18A:40-8 N.J.S.A. 26:4-6

Exclusion of pupils who are ill. Exclusion of pupils whose presence is detrimental to health and cleanliness.

Prohibiting attendance of teachers or pupils: *American Academy of Pediatrics Harvard School of Public Health National Association of School Nurses*

*4112.4 Employee health *4212.4 Employee health *5113 Absences and excuses *5141 Health

*5141.2 Illness *Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words: Illness, Sickness, Head Lice, Pediculosis,