

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS) INFESTATION

DATES (Adopted/Revised)	GUIDE WORDS
Adopted March, 1992 Revised December, 2004	Head Lice Infestation Lice Pediculosis Treatment

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

Head Lice are insects that live on the human scalp and feed on blood. Head lice are not known to transmit diseases under natural conditions. Anyone can get head lice, but they are most common on young school-age children. Becoming infected with head lice is not related to personal cleanliness. Infection typically occurs from direct contact with another person who is infected. Pediculosis is generally controlled by use of an insecticide and some simple procedures.

STAFF TRAINING AND INSERVICE

It is the responsibility of the building administration to provide training and in-service to designated staff members in order to:

1. Identify infested individuals.
2. Handle cases of infestation properly and delicately.
3. Assure that parents are properly notified of the problem and treatment.
4. Check to see that students who are returning to school have been properly treated.
5. Help parents receive the necessary assistance when a chronic case occurs.

IDENTIFICATION OF INFECTION

When students are suspected of having an infestation of head lice, they should be referred to the principal or designee. The suspected student will be checked privately in order to determine whether or not the student is infected. If several cases are identified, all students including those that are uninfected will be given a letter to take home that describes identification, prevention, and treatment of head lice. The designated building personnel will, upon confirmation of an infested student, examine the class and others they suspect as being infested.

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EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

If a student is found to be infested, parents will be contacted by telephone and asked to pick up the student.

In the event that parents can not be reached, the student will be given instructions which will prevent the spread of lice to other students, and will be returned to class. Parents will be given information outlining proper treatment of pediculosis. Parents will complete a certificate which indicates the steps which have been taken at home in order to treat the student and other household items to prevent reinfection prior to the student being able to return to school.

READMITTANCE TO SCHOOL

Prior to being admitted to class following infestation, the student will report to the principal or designee to be rechecked and to submit the required completed forms. The student will be rechecked again in seven days to determine that there is not a reinfestation.

CHRONIC INFECTIONS

A record of students discovered with pediculosis will be kept to insure proper follow-up and to identify chronic problems. Name, date, teacher, date sent home, date readmitted to school, and date rechecked are to be included. When conditions recur or persist after second treatment, parents should be instructed to contact the health department or their physician. The use of a pesticide in the school by school personnel will not be permitted unless approved by the school administration after consultation with the Health Department.