

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS) INFESTATION

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

Pediculosis does not usually present a severe medical problem and can be treated following simple procedures.

School Staff Selection and Training

The building principal should designate members of the staff to handle cases of head lice which occur from time to time. It is recommended that these be personnel who are not directly assigned to a classroom so that they can be available when necessary. Other members of the staff will refer individuals who are suspected of having head lice for confirmation and action. Designated individuals are to receive inservice training from the Southeastern Health Department so that they can assist parents and students whenever the need arises.

Examination of Students

Whenever a students display symptoms that are associated with head lice infestations, they should be referred to the principal or designee. In so far as possible, this should occur without drawing the attention of other students or teachers to the suspected problem. Individual students should not be examined nor remarks made about the possibility of infection in the presence of other students. Every effort should be made to assure students that anyone can be infected. The self-concept of the student is a primary issue in the cases of head lice.

Exclusion of Students from School

When a student is found to have head lice, parents should be contacted and informed of the situation. They will be asked to come to the school in order to take the student home to receive treatment as soon as possible. Parents should be given a head lice information packet which includes an information brochure, an initial treatment sign-off form, and a seven-day follow-up sign-off form. Parents should be notified that students will be readmitted when the initial treatment has been done and the nits have been removed from the student's hair. A retreatment is required in 7 days in order to insure that there is not a recurrence of the infestation. Parents are required to sign that both the initial and the follow-up programs have been followed. In cases where chronic reinfections occur, parents may be referred to the Health Department for help. School personnel should not treat students who are infested except in unusual circumstances when recommended by the Health Department and approved by the building principal.

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If parents cannot be reached by telephone, students are to remain at school and return to their regular classes. The principal or designee should discuss the situation with students and inform them of the need for care in school. They should take care not to directly contact other students or allow their coats, etc. to be placed in contact with other student's coats, etc. Other students in the class or school should not be informed of the student's infestation. The student is not to be isolated or otherwise humiliated because of the infestation. If the parent has not been contacted by the end of the day, the student should be given the parent information packet and should return home in the usual way. The principal or designee should contact the parent by telephone to explain the problem and indicate that the student will be excluded from school until the initial treatment has been completed. The student should be instructed to report to the principal or designee upon returning to school to be checked and to present the completed form.

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(SAMPLE INITIAL TREATMENT FORM)

Date: _____

Dear Parent:

Your child was sent home from school today because of a head lice infestation. This is a condition that is easily treated and is generally not associated with any serious medical complications. Prompt treatment is necessary as any delay will allow the lice to increase and spread to others.

Please treat your child promptly as described in the attached pamphlet. After treatment, complete the following checklist and return so that your child may return to school.

_____ 's hair was shampooed with _____
(name of student) (name of product)
and nits were removed.

- Vacuumed furniture, rugs, floors and mattresses.
- Machine-washed bed linens and washable clothing in hot water (140 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes).
- Treated non-washable items as directed in the pamphlet. (By placing in a hot dryer, dry cleaning or placing in a sealed plastic bag.)
- Disinfected combs, brushes, barrettes and similar items by soaking in 150 degree Fahrenheit water for twenty minutes, or by soaking in lice shampoo for one hour.
- Inspected other family members for lice and treated them "if" necessary.

Parent Signature: _____

Rechecked by: _____
(Designated School Representative)

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SAMPLE 7-DAY FOLLOW-UP/RETREATMENT FOR HEAD LICE FORM

Check the appropriate boxes and sign this form for your student's continued admission to school.

_____ was retreated with _____.
(Student's Name) (Name of Product)

- Family members were checked for presence of nits or lice and treated if needed.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

School Representative _____ Date _____

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(SAMPLE OUTBREAK WARNING LETTER)

Dear Parent:

There have been some cases of head lice in the school. Children with head lice are kept out of school until treated. Early prevention is preferable to the outbreak of any cases. Part of prevention is education. Lice are transmitted by direct contact with an infested individual or by sharing items of clothing or grooming aids, such as barrettes, combs, headbands, etc. Therefore, children should be warned not to share items with others. Children participating on teams should not share headgear. Lice do not jump or fly, but they can crawl. Children should not stack or pile up sweaters or coats. Their coats should hang separately from other coats. If this is not possible, the coat could be placed in a plastic sack, such as you might get from a grocery store, and hang it on the hook.

Head lice cannot live on household pets. They only live and breed on the human head. It is not true that only unclean people get head lice; anyone can be infected. Please reinforce the teaching we have done to prevent further spread and ensure that kindness is shown to those who contract the lice.

If you need help or have questions, call the Public Health Department for Assistance at 233-9080.

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(SAMPLE SCHOOL LOG)

SCHOOL: _____.

STUDENT NAME	TEACHER NAME	Date Sent Home	Date Readmitted	Date Rechecked