

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

This policy is adopted to carry out the provisions of RSA 200:32, RSA 200:38, and RSA 200:39.

Pediculosis: Screening. Based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Board recognizes that school-wide screening for nits alone is not an accurate way of predicting which students will become infested with head lice, and screening for live lice has not been proven to have a significant decrease on the incidence of head lice in a school community.

The school nurse will periodically provide information for families of all students on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. Parents are encouraged to check their children's heads for lice if the child is symptomatic. The school nurse shall check a student's head if the student is demonstrating symptoms.

Management on the Day of Discovery. The management of pediculosis should proceed so as to minimally disrupt the education process. Any staff member who suspects a student to have head lice will report this to the school nurse or designee. The school nurse or designee will notify the parent/guardian by telephone or other available means if the student is found to have head lice and the student will be dismissed from school. Verbal or written instructions for treatment will be given to the family of each identified student. Instructions will include recommendations for treatment that are consistent with New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services recommendations. District employees will act to ensure that student confidentiality is maintained.

Based upon current research, other students who were most likely to have had direct head-to-head contact with the assessed student may be checked or screened for head lice.

Criteria for Return to School. The Board recognizes that the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses discourage "no nit" policies. In alignment with these recommendations, no student will be excluded from attendance solely based on grounds that nits may be present.

Students will be allowed to return to school after proper treatment and no head lice were found. The school nurse shall recheck a child's head. In addition, the school nurse may offer extra help or information to families of children who are repeatedly or chronically infested.

Notification to Parents. The school nurse or designee will provide notification to parents if any cases of head lice have been found. Notification will include general information for proper identification and treatment of head lice and nits.

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