



Health Services Procedure

Subject:

Pediculosis Management Procedure (Head Lice)

Purpose:

To describe the procedure for management of pediculosis infestation at school and recommendations to parents for home treatment. This procedure is based on the “Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pediculosis capitis (head lice) in children and adults 2008” from *National Guidelines Clearinghouse* and the management scheme as outlined in “Head lice information” from *Harvard School of Public Health*.

Definitions:

Head lice: small parasitic insects that live on the scalp and neck of the human host.

Louse: singular of lice

Nymph: young, recently hatched louse

Active infestation: finding a live louse or nymph on the scalp, or a viable nit within ½” of the scalp

Pediculosis: an active infestation of head lice

Nit: an egg of a female louse, attached to hair shaft

Non-viable nit: an egg found on a hair shaft **FARTHER** than ½” from the scalp. Already hatched.

Viable nit: an egg found on a hair shaft **CLOSER** than ½” from the scalp. Considered to be unhatched.

Ovicide: chemical which kills lice eggs/nits

Pediculicide: chemical which kills nymph stage and adult lice

Procedure:

Inspection:

When a staff member suspects a student of having head lice, the following procedure will be followed:

- Staff member should notify the Health Services Office **confidentially** that they suspect a student may have lice.
- The nurse will inspect the student for an active case of head lice.

(An active case of head lice is when live lice are visible and/or nits (eggs) are noted 1/2” or less from the scalp.)

- If live lice are visible OR nits **CLOSER** than 1/2” to the scalp are discovered, the student will return to class and the parent will be notified. Prompt treatment at home will be advised, including removal of live lice and all viable nits. The student will go home via regular mode of transportation at the end of the day unless other arrangements have been made. If nits farther than 1/2” from the scalp are discovered and no live lice are present the parent will be notified, and the student will return to class.
- Parents or guardians will be directed to their health care provider for proper diagnosis and treatment.
- Parent or guardian will be directed to district web site, www.Antioch34.com -> department->health services->Head Lice Information,
- The parents will be instructed to check all family members and notify anyone who the student spends a significant amount of time with (e.g. babysitters, grandparents, or parents who live in another home).

***Immediate removal of the student from school is unnecessary. Day of discovery is not the day of infestation.**

By the time lice is discovered, the student has usually had them for 3-4 weeks and prompt removal of the student from school would lead to embarrassment and ridicule. Students will be allowed to ride the school bus home.

Transmission via school bus seats is not likely.



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Follow-up and documentation:

- Following treatment, the student will be rechecked upon returning to the classroom.
- If no live lice or viable nits are present, the student will be rechecked in 7-10 days.
- If viable nits or live lice are found, the parent/guardian will be notified. The student will be allowed to return to class, and further treatment options will be discussed with parent/guardian. The student will be rechecked in 7-10 days.
- The Nurse will document initial assessment, recheck, and parent/guardians reported treatment on the Lice Care Log.
- The Nurse is available to answer questions and concerns regarding course of care.

Please refer to Management of Head Lice in the School Setting (revised 2016) National Association of School Nurses Position Statement