



Winfield R-IV School District

PROTOCOL FOR MANAGEMENT OF HEAD LICE

- At the discretion of the school nurse/health staff, screenings will be done in appropriate time at the Primary and Intermediate buildings beginning of each school year. Middle and High Schools building will be conducted as needed basis. Siblings and other students residing in the affected student area also will be screened, regardless of the school site. Students referred for indications of live lice or nits will be screen by school nurse/health staff.
- Notify parents whenever live lice or nits are found, **(A student with noted lice or nits must be pickup from school and return to school by parent or designated adult, students will not be allow to ride the bus during this time. Student must be recheck by school nurse/health staff prior to return to class).** If a student has a **second** incident positive for Head lice or nits detected by the school nurse/health staff, parents will demonstrate to school nurse/health staff proper nit removal and review Head Lice treatment and protocol with nurse/health staff. **Third** incident will be reported to administrator staff for further direction and management of each individual case. **Should only a few nits be seen after adequate treatment, those nits may be removed at the discretion of the principal or nurse and the child may be allowed to return to school.**
- The health office will provide parent/guardian with oral and written instructions about treatment. Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Parent fact sheet on Head Lice or written lice resource material will be given to parent. Resource may be obtained from CDC web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/lice/head>.
- After treatment at home for live lice or nits completed, the child is to be screened by health staff **with parent/guardian present** upon returning to class.
- The school nurse will be consulted for recurrent or chronic cases, incidence of suspected treatment failure or for other concerns.
- Suggest families notify other settings the child attends outside of school. e. Close contacts and siblings of the child with live lice may be screened (this may require notifying other schools).

HEAD LICE TREATMENT PLAN

- **Day of detection of Head Lice** apply Lice medicine, also called pediculicide, according to instructions contained in the box or printed on the label. If the infested person has very long hair (longer than shoulder length) it may be necessary to use a second bottle. Pay special attention to instructions on the label or in the box regarding how long the medication should be left on the hair and how it should be washed out. **Everyone in household should be checked for Lice or nits and treated same day if positive. Lice treatment products are not 100% effective in killing lice, and especially nits. With certain products a second treatment is recommended 7-10 days from initial treatment.**

Warning: Do not use a combination shampoo/conditioner or conditioner before using lice medicine. Do not re-wash the hair for 1-2 days after the lice medicine is removed.

- REMOVE NITS (EGGS): The nits are glued on to the hair shaft as they are laid, and require effort to remove. To remove the nits, use a metal nit comb, cat flea comb, or **your fingernails to slide eggs off the hair shafts (nitpicking) in proper lighted area. Continue checking the head and combing hair daily for 2 weeks. All Head Lice and nits must be removed from hair and scalp for student to return to school.** Nits within ½ inch of the scalp are not removed, some may hatch and your child will get head lice again.

HEAD LICE TREATMENT PLAN WHAT ELSE COULD BE DONE

- Check all family members' heads for nits or lice once a week.
 - Put on clean clothes after treatment.
 - Wash all bed linens in hot, soapy water.
 - Wash all clothes, which have been in contact with your child's head in hot, soapy water including hats, coats, and backpacks.
 - Clean pillow either by washing in hot soapy water or placing in a hot dryer for 20 minutes.
 - Vacuum mattress, carpet, cloth-like furniture, car upholstery, etc. (**sprays are not recommended**).
- Replace vacuum bags after each use and remove from the house.
- Put any items that cannot be washed in hot soapy water, dried in a hot dryer, vacuumed or dry cleaned in a plastic bag and seal for 2 weeks.
 - Clean combs and brushes with hot soapy water.
 - Do not share hats, combs, hair accessories, etc.
 - Notify other people your child has close contact with, if head lice are found

HEAD LICE PRECAUTIONS

- 1) Lice are spread by **head-to-head contact**. Check your child for lice often.
- 2) Remind children not to share combs, brushes, headbands, barrettes, scrunches, helmets, hats, scarves or personal items. Hair grooming should take place in the restroom only.
- 3) Keep coats separated. Do not stack, pile or hang coats on top of each other. Instruct children to keep hats and scarves stored in their coat sleeves.
- 4) Educate the community about head lice and its prevention.
- 5) Encourage parents **to inspect children's hair, at home daily for at least 2 weeks in good light.**

BASIC FACTS ABOUT HEAD LICE

- Scientific sources agree that the **school is not a significant source of head lice infestation.**
- **Lice cannot survive for more than 48 hours off the head.**
- Lice do not fly, hop or jump; **lice are crawling insects.** • "Live lice" must lay nits, the eggs of lice; you cannot "catch" nits. • Research indicates that children may have lice for as long as 4 weeks before recognition.

****Head Lice treatment or nit removal should be completed within 24 hours from the date of detection. Action of absentees due to Head Lice or nits to be handle at the discretion of the administration staff/principal.**

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