

The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn **Head Lice Protocol**

Goals

1. Identify infested individuals
2. Minimize lost instructional time/absences
3. Educate students, parents/guardians, personnel, and other stakeholders of head lice infestation

Protocol

If a child is found to have signs and symptoms of infestation of live lice or nits, a parent/guardian will be notified to follow-up with a health care provider for treatment. The school nurses will also follow- up as necessary according to the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Diagnosis-Assessment:

1. The student will be examined by the School Nurse to determine if there is an active infestation.
2. If the School Nurse determines there is an active infestation, the student's parent/guardian will be notified and they will be referred to their health care provider for treatment.
3. If a student is found to have lice he/she should remain in class but be discouraged from close direct head contact with others. The parent may pick up the child if they wish but will not be required to do so.
4. Published material regarding head lice infestation and management will be made available on the health services part of the school's website.
5. There is no current peer reviewed research that supports the practice of school wide or classroom wide "head checks", the immediate exclusion of infested children, or a "no nits" policy. Therefore, none of these practices will be employed.
6. If there is more than one child in a classroom who is found to have lice, the school nurse may send a letter home to the parents of children in that classroom.

School Attendance Criteria:

1. Children need not be excluded or sent home early from school because of head lice. Parents/guardians of affected children will be notified and informed that their children must be properly treated and may return to school on the day after treatment. This is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines, the MA Department of Public Health and the National Association of School Nurses.
2. The School Nurse will provide privacy, confidentiality, and support for the family and student.

References

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;126/2/392.pdf>

National Association of School Nurses Position Statement: *Pediculosis (Lice) in the School Community* <http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=237>

The Comprehensive School Health Manual/ Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

http://www.maclighthouse.com/SchoolHealthManualSite/schoolhealthmanual/PDF/Chapters/Chapter08_D.pdf