

PEDICULOSIS

Screening: The Laconia School District believes, based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, that school-wide screening for nits is not an accurate way of predicting which children 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 to families of all children on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. Parents are encouraged to *periodically* check their child's head for lice. In the event that a child is demonstrating symptoms, they should be checked more frequently. The school nurse may check a student's head if the child is demonstrating symptoms.

Management on the Day of Diagnosis: The Laconia School District recognizes that head lice infestation poses **little risk to others and does not result in additional health problems. The management of Pediculosis should proceed so as to not disrupt the education process. Any staff member who suspects a student has head lice will report this to the school nurse or principal. A student found to have head lice (live bugs, not just nits) will remain in class provided the student is comfortable. If a student is not comfortable, a parent/guardian will be notified and arrangements will be made for the student to be picked up. Such students will be discouraged from close, direct head-to-head contact with others and from sharing personal items with other students. Parents/guardians may be given informational handouts on lice treatment.**

Nonetheless, any staff member who suspects a student has head lice will report this to the school nurse or Principal. Student's known to have head lice will not remain in school. The Principal or school nurse will notify the parent/guardian by telephone or other available means of the head lice and the parent will come to school and take the child home. The parent will be given instructions on the recommended treatment that are consistent with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services recommendations. District employees will act to ensure that student confidentiality is maintained so the child is not embarrassed.

Based upon the school nurse's recommendation, other children who were most likely to have had direct head-to-head contact with the assessed child may be checked or screened for head lice.

Criteria for Return to School: Students will be allowed to return to school after proper treatment as recommended by the school nurse. The Laconia School District recognizes that The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses discourage "no nits" policies. In alignment with these recommendations, no student will be excluded from attendance solely based on grounds that nits may be present. The school nurse may 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.

Adopted: July 17, 2007
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