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Pediculosis (Head Lice) Procedure

It is the procedure of the Tucker County Board of Education that any student found attending school with pediculosis (lice) shall be excluded from school until the student has been treated with an effective pediculicide and they are lice free.

Head lice cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school procedure is intended to outline roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating, and controlling of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the school year or more frequently, if needed.
- Upon detection of live lice at school, an attempt to contact a parent by phone to explain need for treatment and the return to school lice procedure. Written information will be sent home with the student explaining the appropriate treatment of live lice, suggested cleaning of the home to prevent reinfestation, and again the return to school procedure.
- Provide lice information on the Tucker County Schools web site.
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.
- Attempt to access community educational resources and support those families who are having difficulty eradicating their student's lice situation (FRN @ 304-478-3827).
- Only exclude children from school with live lice.
- Encourage children to learn about head lice to help reduce stigma or bullying.
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may have and seek extra support if required.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.
- Seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.
- School screenings will not be conducted due to ineffectiveness and time consumption of the procedure, based on the American Academy of Paediatrics' recommendations.
- Classroom lice letters will only be sent home at the discretion of the School Nurse.
- Random whole class checks periodically throughout school year at nurse's discretion.

Board of Education

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Parent Responsibility

- Check your children's hair for head lice weekly, at home.
- DO NOT allow your child to attend school with untreated live head lice.
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- Treat head lice safely and as recommended.
- Notify the parents of your child's friends if lice are found on your child so they can check their children and treat if necessary.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community when addressing issues regarding head lice.
- Adhere to the Tucker County Lice Procedure about treating and rechecking the student who has been identified with live lice.

Lice Identification and Exclusion of Student with Live Lice

1. Students will be sent to the nurse or designee for evaluation of possible live lice. Students who are symptomatic of possible live lice, (scratching their head more than usual, observance of live "bugs in hair", observation of "nits" in the hair (that has not already been assessed) will be assessed for live lice. If live lice are found, the whole class will be checked.
2. There are to be 2 school employees other than the School Nurse, who are proficient in screening for lice at each school. Administrator will appoint these employees and the school nurse will educate and verify competency of the lice screening process for the assigned employees.
3. If a student is found to have live lice:
The parent is notified to come and pick the student up from school due to head lice. This absence (the day the student is sent home) will be excused.
 - a. The school nurse or assigned school employee will contact the parent by phone and explain the finding of lice and the return to school procedure. The student must be treated for live lice and have no live lice to return to school.
 - b. The "Lice Letter to Parents" is to be sent home with students who have been identified with having live lice at school.
4. The parent is to bring the student to school after they have treated for live lice. **The student is not ride the school bus until cleared to return to school.**
5. If there are no live lice the student may remain at school. If live lice are detected the student is to be excluded from school until there are no live lice and the student has been cleared by the School Nurse or her designee to return to class. The student may remain at school if there is only the detection of nits.
6. Recheck student in 1 week for live lice. If no live lice, no further rechecks for this lice episode is required.
7. Absences due to lice beyond 2 days (per instance) are considered unexcused absences.

Nit Procedure

1. If the student presents with only “nits”, student may return to class. The “Nits Parent Information Letter” is to be sent home with the student in a sealed envelope.
2. Recheck in 1 week.
3. If live lice are found follow the live lice procedure.
4. If no nits or no live lice are found recheck in 1 week.
5. If no live lice found on recheck the student may return to class.
6. No further routine checks.