

PEDICULOSIS

Parents of children with head lice will be notified by school nurse or principal of active infestation. If live bugs are present the student will be sent home but will remain in the classroom until parent arrives. The student will be excluded from school until treatment with a medicated solution is administered and improvement of nit removal is made. Lice information letter will be sent home with student. The student will be permitted to return to after treatment, noticeable progress has been made on nit removal as determined by school nurse or principal designee and treatment form is completed and signed by parent. The student must be accompanied to school with a parent to meet with the school nurse or staff member trained in the procedure to be rechecked. If live bugs or no progress has been made in nit removal the student will be excluded. If student is found to be free of live lice and noticeable improvement has been made on nit removal the student will be readmitted to school.

In the situation that a parent is not able to pick student up from school or is unreachable by phone a lice information letter will be sent home and the student will be sent home on the bus. If the student returns to school with live bugs and no improvement with nit removal the student will not be permitted to return to the classroom. Parent will be notified to pick student up from school.

The student will be permitted to miss the day of dismissal plus one day excused absence. But every effort is to be made to have student back the next school day. Any time away from school after the day of and plus one, will be considered unexcused

If a student is found to have nits only and no live bugs the student will be permitted to stay in school. Parent will be notified by school nurse or principal. Lice information letter will be sent home with student.

Classroom checks are not warranted unless deemed necessary by the building nurse and/or principal. Due to confidentiality no lice letters will be sent home in the classrooms when a student is sent home. Every effort will be made to not isolate or ostracize the student affected.

This Procedure is based on changes recommended from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control, National Association of School Nurses and Ohio Department of Health. The following are websites with the position statements of the above organizations:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/pdf/idcm/pedicpol.PDF>

<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;126/2/392>

<http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=237>

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>

Findlay City Schools

Head Lice Information

Your child was examined today and found to have head lice. This is an easily treated condition that is not associated with any serious medical complications. This letter will acquaint you with the nature of this infestation and what you can do to help get rid of it.

What is head lice?

Head lice are transmitted through close personal contact with an infested individual.

Occasionally, transmission occurs by sharing combs, brushes and other grooming aids; through sharing coats, scarves, hats, caps, wigs, etc.; or through commingling of these items at home, the homes of friends, school, church or other public places. Most people have the impression that only unclean persons become infested with head lice. **This is not true!** Frequent bathing will neither prevent head lice nor eliminate the infestation once it has become established.

What does head lice look like?

Head lice are small, elongate insects about this (--) long (maximum) and are yellowish white to greyish white with dark margins. **LICE DO NOT JUMP OR FLY, NOR DO THEY STAY ALIVE FOR LONG PERIODS OFF THE HUMAN HEAD.** They can move very quickly once on the head and are difficult to find.

Where is head lice found?

Because head lice are good at hiding in the hair, an infestation is usually diagnosed by finding the nits (louse eggs). Nits are teardrop-shaped, about the size of a typewritten comma, and vary in color from yellowish-brown to white. Head lice attach each nit to a hair shaft at the scalp with a waterproof, cement-like substance. Thus, nits cannot be washed or brushed out of the hair like dandruff or other debris resembling nits. Nits are most commonly found on hairs at the nape of the neck and behind the ears, where they are protected from extreme light and temperatures. However, clusters of nits can be found in any area of the hair, requiring examination of the entire head.

How do I get rid of head lice?

It is necessary to inspect and treat the infested individual and his/her contacts, including family members who are also infested. Personal articles that any infested person has worn or used within the previous 48 hours should be disinfested. The following treatment procedures should be carried out before your child returns to school:

- 1) Obtain head louse shampoo from your pharmacy. Several medications are available without a prescription: A-200 Pyrinate, RID, NIX, etc. Kwell requires a physician's prescription.
- 2) Apply the shampoo according the manufacturer's directions: **DO NOT OVER TREAT!!** Do not allow children to apply the shampoo to themselves. Be sure that the product gets to the scalp and remains there the recommended length of time.
- 3) Have your child put on clean clothing after treatment.
- 4) Manually remove all nits from your child's hair. Do not rely solely on the nit combs supplied with the products. Using finger tips and fingernails is the most efficient method of nit removal. Nits may be disposed of by dipping the fingers with the nits into a small jar of rubbing alcohol or warm soapy water. This is time consuming but is extremely important as your child may not be allowed to attend school until he/she is nit free. Wash your hands thoroughly after completing nit removal.

5) Repeat treatment with the shampoo after 7-10 days.

Since heat kills lice and their eggs, many personal articles can be disinfested by machine- washing in **HOT** water and/or drying on the **HOT** cycle for at least 20 minutes. Both nits and adults are killed in 10-20 minutes at 125oF. Home hot water heaters keep water at or above this temperature when the heat selector is set on medium or higher. Articles of clothing and bedding that cannot be washed or dried should be dry cleaned or placed in tightly sealed plastic bags for 14 days. Combs, brushes, and similar items can be disinfested by soaking them in a pan of 150oF water for 5-10 minutes.

Carpets, furniture, etc., do not require special treatment, as lice live only about 24 hours off the head. Normal vacuuming is sufficient treatment of these items. **APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES OR FUMIGATION IS NOT NECESSARY!** Animals other than humans do not carry these lice; there is no need to treat family pets.

Who should I contact?

Babysitters and parents of your child's closest friends must be notified that they and their children might also be infested. This is particularly important if the children have slept together or participated in activities involving frequent body contact, such as athletics, dance classes, etc. If the friend becomes infested while playing with your child and is not treated, your child might become reinfested from the friend. This also applies to all family members. **TREATMENT DOES NOT PREVENT REINFESTATION.**

When can my child return to school?

Your child is expected to return to school the day following treatment. The school nurse or trained school employee will examine your child's hair and scalp at that time. Your child will be readmitted to school if no live lice are found, a noticeable improvement has been made on nit removal and the treatment form is completed and signed (found at the bottom of this form)

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school building nurse

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HEAD LICE TREATMENT FORM

DATE: _____

This is to notify you that _____ (child) has been treated

_____ (what was done) on

_____ (date) and I have begun to remove nits and to do the necessary

treatment of the home environment.

_____ Signature of Parent

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Head Lice Treatment Checklist

- _____ Student treated with appropriate lice treatment according to package instructions
- _____ Family members checked and treated with appropriate lice treatment
- _____ Removal of nits by combing or manually removing with fingertips
- _____ Brushes, combs, barrettes and headbands washed with hot water.
- _____ Clothes, coats and hats washed in hot water if possible and dried
- _____ Sheets, blankets, pillowcases, quilts and sleeping bags washed in hot water and dried
- _____ Vacuum sweeper used on all rugs
- _____ Vacuum sweeper used on all upholstered furniture
- _____ Vacuum sweeper used on all car seats and child booster/safety seats
- _____ Vacuum sweeper used on mattress, box springs and pillows
- _____ Stuffed animals, plush toys and throw pillows tightly sealed in plastic bags for 10 days
- _____ Book bags, hats or any items that cannot be washed and dried, placed in tightly sealed plastic bags for 10 days.
- _____ Notify parents of friends or family members who have had possible close head-to-head contact with your child (example: sleepovers)
- _____ Check your child's head and all other family members head daily for 10-14 days for possible re-infestation, comb or manually remove nits
- _____ Repeat appropriate lice treatment according package instructions
- _____ If live lice are found after day one repeat washing of coats, hats, hair barrettes and like items and bedding in hot water (if possible) and dry