

Lice Guidelines/Protocol

Definition: Head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*) are tiny, wingless, parasitic insects that develop on your scalp. The lice/lobe lay eggs called nits on the hair shaft. Head lice move by crawling, they cannot fly or jump.

Signs and symptoms:

- Intense itching.
- Tickling feeling from movement of hair
- Lice on your scalp- lice are about the size of a sesame seed or slightly larger
- Nits on the hair shaft- they are tiny white buds that may resemble dandruff, but cannot be easily brushed out of the hair like dandruff.
- There may be redness/bumps on the back of neck and behind ears

Management and Treatment and follow-up:

- The school nurse will examine the head of any student suspected of having a lice infestation and notify parent/guardian.
- If a student is found to have live lice/lobe the student will be sent home for treatment.
- The student must be examined by the school nurse prior to returning to class. If the student is found to have live lice/lobe the student will be sent home.
- Parent/guardian should continue to comb hair and remove nits(eggs) daily for 3 weeks to prevent reinfestation.
- Parent/guardian should closely follow product instructions to prevent reinfestation.
- Students will be rechecked in 7-10 days. If live lice/lobe is found student will be sent home for treatment.

The school nurse at his/her discretion will examine siblings and close contacts (eg sleepovers) of the students who have a lice infestation.

If a parent/guardian treats a student for head lice they should notify the school. **Any student treated for head lice should be examined by the school nurse prior to returning to school.**

Education/ Prevention for Parents and students- see link on nurses website and view powerpoint presentation

Education for School Staff - see link