

# Head Lice Protocol

Active Infestation is defined as the presence of live lice or any nits found within one quarter inch of the scalp. (MDE)

- One quarter inch will be measured with a clean ruler.

## Procedure

A student may be checked for head lice under the following conditions:

- A staff member, parent/guardian, or student themselves makes a request.
- A student has a sibling in the district with an active infestation.
- A student shares a locker with a student who has an active infestation.
- A student is in a classroom that has two or more active infestations concurrently.
- A head check may be done at the discretion of a building principal or the school nurse.

## School Attendance (This includes any school sponsored activities)

If a student is identified with an active infestation, the student's parent/guardian will be notified promptly. The student's parent will be given the opportunity to pick their child up from school and start the treatment process immediately with the student receiving an excused absence. If it is not possible or optimal for the student to be picked up at the time of the discovery of lice, the parent and building principal may choose to have the student remain at school and treatment begin after completion of the school day. (MDE)

## Return to School

- Treatment for head lice must occur for all students with an active infestation before returning.(MDE)
- Upon return to school the student must be accompanied by parent or designated adult.(MDE)
- Before returning to the classroom a designated employee will recheck the student's hair.(MDE)
- If there are no signs of an active infestation (no live lice or nits within one quarter inch of the scalp), the student may return to class (MDE).
- Any student with nits greater than one quarter inch from the scalp with no live lice detected can remain at school. However, parents/guardians will be asked to remove any remaining nits at the end of the school day and continue checking their child's hair daily for 2 weeks removing nits and treating hair if live lice are found. (MDE)



- After the student has been given permission to return to class, periodic head checks will be performed by a designated school employee over the next few weeks. Head checks will be performed discretely and with confidentiality remaining a priority. (MDE)

#### **Informational Parent Letters Sent Home**

- When a significant increase in head lice cases is detected, or at the discretion of the building principal or school nurse, a general fact sheet or parent education letter will be distributed to parents. (MDE)

**Recurrent or Chronic Cases** (Continued active infestation after appropriate treatment has started, persistent infestation after six consecutive weeks, or after three separate cases within one school year.)

- Multidisciplinary group consisting of parent/guardian, teachers, administrators, school nurse and other appropriate individuals to determine the best approach to resolve the issue and improve school attendance. (MDE)

