

**REFERENCES:**

These procedures are based upon the Guidelines for the Management of Head Lice, Salt Lake City-County Health Department, April 1998.

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Because many children come into close daily contact at school, the potential for the transmission of head lice is present. The Center for Disease Control, the Utah State Health Department and the Salt Lake City/County Health Department do not recognize the presence of head lice as a reportable medical condition. North Summit School District is not an enforcing agency for policing head lice infestations in the community, but cooperates with Health Department guidelines.

While head lice do not originate in schools and schools cannot prevent the spread of head lice, schools can be helpful to their local communities in controlling the spread of head lice through education. It is the intent of the District to assist communities and address the issue of head lice in the following three areas:

1. Preventing the transmission of head lice.
2. Proper treatment of an infestation.
3. Notification of an infestation.

**PREVENTION**

1. North Summit School District shall provide each school a checklist that includes information for teachers about preventative classroom procedures and information for students about the transmission, detection, and the need for treatment in the event of an infestation.
2. School administrators are encouraged to cooperate with community groups who wish to provide parent training in head lice detection in neighborhood or regional school sites.
3. School administrators are encouraged to make their facilities available for screening conducted by the school nurse, county nurse, etc.
4. School administrators are encouraged to collaborate with other community organizations in the distribution of information about head lice prevention and treatment.

Information provided to the community shall include the four basic components of treatment:

Kill the lice. Recognized pediculicide treatments kill lice and nits (lice eggs). Treatments may need to be repeated to be completely effective.

Remove the nits. This recommended step might help prevent self-reinfestation.

Clean/Treat the Environment. Clothing, bedding, carpets, etc.

On-going Inspections. Family members should inspect one another after treatment.

## **INTERVENTION & NOTIFICATION**

School personnel shall follow the procedures listed below when the presence of live head lice is confirmed:

**TREATMENT:** Remove the student from the classroom and ask the parents to come to school.

Provide the parents with information about the treatment of head lice.

Send the student home with parents for treatment.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL:** Students sent home for treatment should return to school the following school day or as soon as treated.

Parents are requested to report the treatment procedure used.

Students not returning the next school day are contacted to determine the cause of their absence.

Excessive absences due to head lice, difficult cases, recurrent cases, and other special circumstances shall be referred to the school nurse.

### **NOTICE:**

Students in the classes attended by a student found to be infested with head lice shall be given the Notice of possibly infestation.

If the school confirms three cases of head lice on the same day, and the cases do not appear to be associated with each other, the notice of possible infestation shall be sent to all parents of the school.

The letters will be as follows:

Dear Parents,

In a screening examination at school, your child was found to have head lice. The infestation of lice will not lead to any other disease, nor does it mean your child is dirty. To prevent further spread in the school, this condition should be treated at once. WE ASK YOU TO CAREFULLY FOLLOW THE WRITTEN/VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO YOU. In addition, you may wish to consult with your doctor. This condition, though troublesome, should not be the basis of irrational or unkind reactions. Your child may return to school the day following treatment and should not be out of school longer than 3 days. Please provide proof of treatment by completing the bottom of this letter and returning the letter to school with your child. Conduct a second treatment in 7 to 10 days (from the first) and return the proof letter to school with your child. Thank you for your cooperation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Principal's Signature

If you have any questions, please contact \_\_\_\_\_  
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1. Pediculicide treatment was applied to my child and all infested household contacts.

Product used \_\_\_\_\_ Date used \_\_\_\_\_

Other products used \_\_\_\_\_

2. Head, scalp and hair of my child were thoroughly inspected with good light, hair was combed and lice and nits removed.

3. All personal clothing and bedding (including pillows) were washed in hot water (130 degrees) and dried in a hot dryer for 20 minutes.

4. All non-washable clothing or other articles were dry cleaned or placed in an airtight plastic bag for 14 days.

5. All personal items (combs, brushes, hair gear) were washed in hot soapy water and soaked in liquid Lysol and pediculicide solution for 10 minutes.

6. All carpets, rugs and upholstered (fabric) furniture were vacuumed and will be vacuumed daily for 2 weeks. Disposable vacuum bags were removed to outside trash receptacle.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents,

This is to notify you that a case of head lice was confirmed on someone in your child's classroom. The infestation of head lice will not lead to any other disease, nor does it mean that children are dirty. This condition is not uncommon with school-age children and does not justify any undue alarm. We asked you to handle this matter-of-factly and to discourage irrational and unkind reactions. To prevent further spread in the school, this condition needs your immediate attention. Using a good strong light, please inspect your child's head, scalp and hair carefully and look for lice (parasites), nits (eggs), or feces (red patches). Inspect the head, scalp and hair of everyone in your household. If you suspect lice, please notify the school for further instructions. If your child and household members are lice-free, we ask you NOT to use any pediculicide at this time. Thank you for your cooperation.

\_\_\_\_\_Principal's Signature

If you have any questions, please contact\_\_\_\_\_



**ABOUT HEAD LICE...**

1. Lice do not jump, fly or hop, but are spread from person to person by direct contact and sharing items like brushes, combs, hair ornaments, hats, scarves, coats, bedding, pillows, etc. One does not get head lice from animals.
2. Lice are usually found on the hair behind the ears, at the back of the neck and on the crown area. They usually create itching and scratching.
3. Lice are about the size of the head of a pin. The nits (eggs) are gray or tan and are securely attached to the hair shaft usually close to the scalp and are not easily brushed off. They are not to be confused with dandruff, lint or dry hair sprays that are easily brushed away.
4. Lice live about one month on the human head by sucking blood. They reproduce rapidly with their life cycle from nit to louse of about one week and from louse to producing nits another week.
5. To discourage becoming infested with head lice, personal care items, clothing, or bedding should not be shared. Inspections of head, hair and scalp should be conducted regularly and frequently. This should be conducted in good strong light.
6. Wash clothing and bed linens and vacuum carpets, furniture, floors, and car seats frequently. Disposable vacuum bags should be removed to an outside trash receptacle.

## **HEAD LICE TREATMENT**

### 1. GETTING STARTED:

Parents (or those with parental responsibility) are responsible to treat head lice on their child(ren) and all other infested household members. They should use an acceptable pediculicide (Nix, RID, Pedicide, Pronto, Clear, or a generic/store brand) with .3% Pyrethrin. A product should be purchased as soon as possible to start treatment. Parents may need to talk with someone at school or the school nurse if there is a delay in getting the product.

### 2. PROCEDURE:

- a. Protect the face, eyes, nose and mouth of the person to be treated.
- b. Remove all clothing.
- c. Use lice shampoo, lotion or gel as directed on the label without first bathing.
- d. Using a good strong light, thoroughly inspect the head, scalp and hair to remove all lice and nit (eggs) with a fine-toothed comb or fingernails.

Optional treatment following pediculicide:

1. Saturate the head, scalp and hair with mayonnaise.
  2. Cover the head with a plastic shower cap and leave on over night.
  3. In the morning, comb (with fine-toothed comb) through the hair and inspect carefully to remove any dead lice or nits.
  4. Wash hair as usual.
  5. Repeat this process nightly for 3 to 4 nights.
- e. Have the person put on clean clothing after treatment.
  - f. Using very hot water, wash all clothing, bed linens (including pillows) and all washable items that were in direct contact with lice-infested persons within the last 48 hours. Dry washables in a hot dryer for 20 minutes.  
Note: If washing is delayed, place all washable items in a sealed bag until washed.
  - g. Dry-clean all clothing or other items that cannot be washed.
  - h. Place other items (stuffed toys, cloth books, etc.) in a plastic bag and seal it. Place that bag in another bag and seal it. Leave bags untouched for 2 weeks or place in a freezer for 2 days.
  - i. Soak combs and brushes for 1 hour in a 2% liquid Lysol or pediculicide solution.
  - j. Vacuum all floors, carpets, fabric furniture (incl. upholstered car seats). Remove disposable vacuum bag to outside trash receptacle.
  - k. Conduct basic house cleaning to assure all objects are treated properly and to get rid of all shed hair. This includes dresser drawers, closet corners, laundry areas, etc.

**NOTE: Treating the person(s) and cleaning the environment should be done on the same day.**

3. RETURN TO SCHOOL:

Complete the letter to verify that treatment was conducted and return it to the school with your child the day following treatment. Your child should not be away from school more than 3 days.

4. FOLLOW-UP:

- a. Repeat pediculicide treatment 7 to 10 days following the first treatment.
- b. Return treatment verification letter to school.
- c. Inspect treated person(s) daily for 2 weeks.
- d. Make sure household members do not share personal care items (combs/brushes), hats, clothing, bedding, etc. Wash clothing and bedding frequently.
- e. Vacuum carpets, floors, upholstered furniture (incl. car) frequently.
- f. Notify anyone who may have gotten head lice from your child.
- g. Discourage sleep-overs and other activities with direct human contact.