

## **School-wide Screenings:**

### **PEDICULOSIS (LICE) PROCEDURE**

#### **Nit-Reducing Policy**

Pediculosis humanus capitis (head louse) is a category IV communicable disease. Lice do not present a life or death situation but they have been found to cause children distress that reduces their ability to learn. The itching causes restlessness, sleepless nights, and at times open head sores that are at risk for infection. Head lice certainly pose a public health concern as they are easily transmitted by human contact or the close contact of clothing or personal items. No matter what means are used, efforts to eradicate head lice are both monetarily and emotionally costly.

The school district has a "Reducing Nit" policy. A reducing nit policy takes into account the knowledge that students that have had lice for more than 2 weeks may have hundreds or thousands of nits and it may take several days before the head is totally nit free. The goal is to have the child lice and nit free learning in school as soon as possible.

#### **When a student is identified as having Pediculosis, the school personnel will:**

- In a sensitive manner, separate the infested student from other students while s/he waits to go home, being careful to avoid public isolation.
- Designated school district personnel will check siblings
- Call parent to inform them of the condition and the need for the parent to come to the school immediately to take the child home for treatment. Authority to send a student home is found in Wisconsin Administrative Code HSS 145.06 (1) **Schools:** *"Any teacher, principal or nurse serving the school may send home, for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment, any pupil suspected of having a communicable or of having any other disease or condition having the potential to affect the health of other students and staff including but not limited to pediculosis or scabies."* NOTE: It is the parent's responsibility to transport the infested child home.

#### **When the parent arrives at the school:**

- Show them the lice and/or nits found on their child's head. This will enable the parents to identify lice and nits when checking their child's hair.
- Review the Elkhorn Area School District "Reducing Nit" policy and the infestation checklist.
- Emphasize that other family members should be screened, demonstrate how that is done and the importance in spending the 6-8 hours doing the home cleaning, head treatment, and nit removal.
- Daily combing at home is required to continue to remove all nits and to capture & kill any live lice that have hatched from missed eggs.
- Parents are encouraged to contact their physician or Walworth County Public Health Nursing Services for additional information and products.
- Inform the parent that the first day that lice are found during a school year will be an excused absence. The child is expected to return to school that day or no later than the next school day, louse and basically nit free.

- Inform parent that any additional days live lice or nits are found that require the student to go home from initial treatment until the child is nit and lice free for 4 weeks, are considered an unexcused absence.
- Encourage parents to do the initial treatment, daily combing for nit removal, and change their child's clothing daily to prevent further unexcused absence. Staff will screen all family members for lice, if requested.
- A second treatment is required 7-10 days after the initial treatment. Parent may be contacted to assure second treatment and nit removal is completed.

### **Preventing the Spread of Head Lice in Schools**

- Designated school district personnel will check locker partners, close friends or close contacts. The classmates of the student will be checked, if indicated.
- In the classroom any "community" articles of clothing, blankets, or pillows in the student's classroom will be laundered in hot water (130 degrees for 20 minutes) or dry cleaned. Any carpeting or cloth furniture in the classroom will be vacuumed by the janitor.
- A letter to notify parents that a classmate of their child has been diagnosed with head lice will be sent home.
- Proper training regarding the screening procedures and record-keeping process for all school personnel who will conduct pediculosis screening.
- A regular screening schedule should be implemented after students return from scheduled breaks in the school year, for example:
  - After the start of the school year
  - After winter break
  - After spring break
  - More often if indicated.

### **Upon return to school**

- Reassessment is a crucial component of the screening process as students return to school. An infested student should report to the health room upon return to school regardless of the treatment used to kill live lice.
- The school district has a "Reducing Nit" policy.
  - With the reducing nit policy it is expected that parents will use a lice killing measure and then thoroughly comb through their child's hair daily before school to remove any nits that are present.
  - If live lice are found, the child is to be sent home for treatment.
  - If it appears that there is a minimum of nits (approximately 10 or less) on the child's hair shafts, trained school staff will assist the parent by removing the few nits that are found and the child will remain at school.
  - If the child returns to school and has more than 10 nits, the child should be returned home for further nit removal. Parents can also be offered a comb and a private place to remove the nits at school.
- Hair checks will occur daily or as needed until the child is louse and nit free for 4 complete weeks.
- Periodic head checks may occur for up to, but not limited to, 2 months after the initial infestation was noted.

**School nurse, school social worker and school principal will review re-occurring cases of lice.** Referrals will be made to Walworth County Public Health Nursing Services for lice treatment assistance. Referrals will be made to Walworth County Social Services for truancy issues related to chronic lice re-infestations.

### **ELKHORN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT - LICE INFORMATION SHEET**

Every year 10-12 million children get head lice. Head lice can happen to anyone. Dirt does not cause lice to appear and lice are not a sign of poor health habits. When a child comes home with lice, it is virtually inevitable their siblings will be infested too, even infants and parents. Lice walk their way from one person to another by a hug, sitting on the same couch, or by the objects that touch hair, i.e. combs, pillows, clothing, towels, etc.

A lice infestation should be suspected if there is itching and scratching of the scalp or matting of the hair. Itching is a major irritation and can cause the child to be inattentive, restless, distractable and listless at school. In severe cases, the child may develop a mild fever, muscular aches, and swollen glands in the neck and/or under the arms. The scratching itself may cause skin infections. Some children show no sign of lice infestation.

Head lice are smaller than a sesame seed (2.4mm to 3.0mm). They have six legs and do not have wings. Lice take on the color of their background. They may be whitish, yellow, brown, or black depending on the hair color of the person they have infested. This is why they are so hard to find, and they flee from light and hide behind strands of hair.

The adult female can lay up to ten eggs a day. The eggs (nits) are attached to the strands of hair with a glue-like substance that makes it nearly impossible to remove with ordinary brushing, combing, or shampooing. The eggs are tiny yellowish white or grayish white and are shaped like a teardrop measuring 0.8mm. The eggs hatch in about a week and in another week the lice are mature enough to begin laying eggs. An adult will live up to 30 days. They cannot live beyond 48 hours without being on a human, but the eggs will hatch off of the human body in 7-10 days.

Be sensitive to your child's feelings. There is no need to scare, blame or humiliate your child. While you go through the steps of treatment, stay calm, be supportive and keep your sense of humor.

To make sure the lice shampoo is effective, every strand of hair and section of the scalp must be thoroughly coated. If your child has very long hair, you may need to use two bottle. Use as much as required to saturate the child's hair. Check your child's and your own fingernails for nits and lice. Set your timer for the exact time to leave the shampoo out of your child's eyes. Comb through the hair to detangle hair to make it easier to use the nit comb. Nits do not come off easily; each must be snagged firmly by the fingernails or lice comb, slid down the hair shaft and removed. **No lice treatment kills 100% of the nits, it is important to remove each and every one or they will re-infest the child again.**

If you discover live lice crawling around on the scalp after treatment, kill them manually, but do not retreat your child. Do the best you can to remove all the lice and nits. Recheck in 24 hours. If there are still live lice, consider using an alternate brand and treating again. Check that you have thoroughly vacuumed and cleaned all areas of your home and car.

No treatment is 100% effective, so **you will need to repeat this whole process in 7 days.** This will kill any remaining nits that may have hatched into lice. You may also want to check your child's head monthly for the school year.

Resource: The Lice-Buster Book: what you can do when your child comes home with head lice! L. Copeland, Warner Books, 1995

Resource: Wisconsin Division of Health: Pediculosis Disease Fact Sheet Series. (2000) Department of Health and Social Services; The National Pediculosis Association, Inc. (NPA) [www.headlice.org](http://www.headlice.org).

## **Distrito De La Escuela De Elkhorn**

Cada año 10-12 mil de niños tiene liendres. Las Liendres las encuentran en la escuela o con de sus amigos. Liendres gente las pasen de todos modos. Las liendres no tiene que ver nada con las tierra o pobre hábitos de la salud. Cuando un niño llega a casa con liendres, padres y hermanos también van a tener liendres si no se dan unos tratamientos porque las liendres camina de persona a persona. Y cosas que tocan el pelo.

Modos de sospechar liendres es rascondse y tener comezon en la cabeza y unca. En cuasas las liendres también dan temperatura, dolar de los brazos, nucka y ostras partes de cuerpo.

Liendres son chicas como una semilla 12mm o 3.0mm. Tiene piernas y no tienen alas. Liendres son amarillas, negras, y blancas depende en el color del pelo de la persona.

La adulta tiene diez huevos en un día. Los huevos se ponen en el pelo no se quitan con peines regulares. Los huevos parecen unas lágrimas. Y nacen en una semana. No viven más de 48 horas si no están en la cabeza o pelo. Los huevos brincan de cuerpo a cuerpo.

Este con los sentimientos de sus niños. No los culpen. Ponganse supportivos con ellos. Para que el champo de las liendres esa efecto cada vorar de pelo necesita tener champu. Si su niña tiene pelo largo va a necesitar más de dos botellas de champu. Cheque sus niños unas también las de ustedes para liendres. Ponga el reloj para dejar el champu el tiempo recomendado. Para matar las liendres y huevos.

Que el pelo de sus niños este seco. Peine el pelo con un peine especialmente de liendres porque liendres son duras para secar por eso es necesita un peine especial de liendres. El tratamiento es importante que secan todas las liendres porque pueden regresen.

Si describe liendres todavía, matelas, no les haga el tratamiento otra vez. Después de 24 horas cheque otra vez el pelo. Cheque y limpie la casa y carros bien.

El tratamiento no es 100% entonces necesita repetie lo. en 7 días. Esto mata las liendres que todavía están en el pelo. Durante el año de la escuela cheque la cabeza de sus niños una vez por mes.

El libro Liendres: que pueden hacer cuando sus niños hacen con liendres! Es llama esto. Por escrito. L. Copeland. Warner Books, 1995