

**Policy Concerning Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

**5501.1**

The Blue Hill Consolidated School Policy for the Management and Control of Pediculosis has the following goals:

1. Education and prevention in the school and community
2. Early detection and treatment of an outbreak
3. Minimize student exclusion from school and school-related activities
4. Minimize loss of time from work and financial burden of parents and families
5. Provision of "Guidelines for Management" for school staff, faculty, administrators, parents, students, healthcare providers, and the community at large.

Adopted: Blue Hill School Committee – January 9, 2008

1. The school nurse will perform routine preventive screenings in the classrooms at periodic intervals throughout the school year. There will be an initial screening at the beginning of the school year, and after winter and spring vacations, as well as when deemed necessary by the school nurse, and/or the principal.
2. The school nurse will provide education to students, staff, faculty, parents and the community on an annual basis about head lice, its prevention, management and treatment. This will be coordinated with the principal and teachers to be implemented in the classrooms in the first trimester of the school year.
3. Notification of the results of all screenings and educational information will be communicated to parents and school community via the school newsletter.
4. Once a case of lice is confirmed by the presence of lice or nits (eggs), parents will be notified immediately to come and get the child. All siblings of confirmed cases will be inspected. Determinations of any other affected students will be attempted, and those students will also be inspected. Asking parents to take students home early will expedite earlier treatment and removal of nits and lice. The school will provide educational materials to the parents that outline step-by-step treatments and treatment recommendations for the infected child, family, and home.
5. Students with confirmed cases of head lice will be excluded from school and school related activities until (a) the removal of lice, nits (eggs), and egg casings following the application of a recommended lice killing product has been accomplished, (b) the child has been inspected by the school nurse or a trained staff/faculty member and been determined to be lice and nit free.  
\* See guidelines. (c) The child is found to be lice and nit-free during re-checks in the first 2 weeks following the original infestation and treatment. A second follow-up treatment is expected to have been provided by the parents in 1 week following the initial treatment (if recommended by the manufacturer of the product).

The following parameter will be used to assist the school nurse and the trained staff/faculty, and principal in their decision to accept the child back into the classroom:

- 1) \*No live lice & nits are detected, or:
- 2) The child returns to school with a note from a health care professional verifying the child is lice/nit free.

**The final decision to accept or exclude any child from the classroom will be at the discretion of the school nurse and the principal, or in the absence of the nurse, the principal and the trained staff/faculty of the school.**

All effort will be made to keep absences to a minimum. All efforts will be made to prevent any further spread of lice to other members of the school and community at large.

6. During the time the student is absent due to head lice, it is considered an illness.  
Students with extended absence may be provided with home tutoring.

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