Head Lice Protocol and Guidelines

Head Lice Protocol

- Once treatment is completed, the child must be transported to school by an adult for confirmation of treatment and head examination by the nurse.
  - If upon examination, the nurse finds no live lice or nits closer than 1/4” of the scalp, the child will be readmitted to school.
  - If nits are found within a quarter inch of the scalp the student may return to class but must be re-checked the next school day to verify removal of those nits.
  - The student will not be re-admitted if live lice are found.
    - Review removal techniques with parents.
    - Suggest they call their pediatrician for further assistance.
  - The student will not be re-admitted if live lice are found.
- Periodically check students' hair over the next few weeks.

Head Lice Procedure

If lice is found or suspected, follow the following procedures:

- The school nurse should check the student for head lice.
- If confirmed, the nurse should notify the parents/guardians that lice have been found and complete education regarding treatment and school policy.
- Send the student home with a copy of the Head Lice Treatment Checklist (See next page).
- Send out notification letter to the students' classroom. Be sure to attach the Head Lice Fact and Myth Sheet from the Michigan Head Lice Manual.
HEAD LICE TREATMENT CHECKLIST

1. ______ Don’t panic! Follow these steps right away and your child should be back to school the next day.
   ______ LONG ABSENCES DUE TO LICE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE OR EXCUSABLE!

2. ______ Notify relatives, friends, school, informing them that your child has had lice. Encourage them to check
    for lice and seek treatment that same day.

3. ______ Examine all heads for lice and nits. Treat affected persons according to package directions.
   ______ CAUTION: Many products MAY NOT be used on infants or pregnant women. Consult your doctor.

4. ______ Things you need:
   ______ Lice treatment product –from pharmacies
   ______ Nit removal items:
   ______ IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO USE A METAL LICE COMB. The Licemeister comb is available at Walgreens. Optional crème rinse/conditioning agent may make nit removal easier. Hair clips/bobby pins are also helpful to section the hair as you comb.
   ______ Towels – one for each person being treated
   ______ Vacuum and vacuum bags (discard after using)
   ______ Clothes washer/dryer

5. ______ Remove ALL nits from ALL family members. THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL STEP. COMB, COMB, COMB DAILY FOR 21 DAYS. COMBING WITH A GOOD METAL COMB IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN ELIMINATING LICE. (After treating and combing, do not allow anyone to sit or lay on untreated couches, beds, carpeting, etc. Cover all these area with a clean sheet until they can be thoroughly vacuumed.)

6. ______ Wash all bedding in hot water. Dry in hot dryer for 30 minutes.

7. ______ VACUUM, VACUUM, VACUUM – ALL FLOORS AND UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE!
   ______ Vacuum mattresses before bedding is placed back on beds. Vacuum car. Discard vacuum cleaner bag.

8. ______ Lice can be killed on all other household items by:
   ______ Soaking in chemicals such as Rid, Nix, Clear and Pronto (combs, brushes), or;
   ______ Heating in a hot dryer for at least 30 minutes (stuffed animals, toys), or;
   ______ Freezing – kept below freezing for 24 hours (hair accessories), or;

9. ______ Stop overnight visits to and from the house until lice are eliminated.

10. ______ CHECK AND COMB HAIR DAILY FOR THREE WEEKS. IF LICE OR NITS REAPPEAR, REPEAT THE ABOVE PROCESS.

IMPORTANT POINTS:
Treatment must be thorough. ALL household members and frequent contacts must be checked and treated if needed.