



# 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;
  - Manual removal – frequent vacuuming of carpets, upholstered furniture, car seats, mattresses.
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.