

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS) PROCEDURES

Whereas the

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that no healthy child be excluded from or allowed to miss school because of head lice, and the 'no nit' policies for return to school are discouraged.
- The National Association of School Nurses state that nit-free policies disrupt the education process and should not be viewed as an essential strategy in the management of head lice.
- Health and Health Care in Schools – children with nits do not pose an immediate threat to the health of others, therefore, excluding these children from school and requiring them to be treated with a pesticidal product is probably excessive.

Therefore, the procedures to be used in the Wells-Ogunquit CSD with respect to head lice (pediculosis) are:

Recommendations for schools:

- Routine head check of healthy students is not recommended.
- Check symptomatic student by school nurse.
- When nits $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or closer to the scalp or live lice are discovered, do not exclude from school, but notify the parent that day and provide instructions on how to treat and eliminate.
- Nurses reserve the right to exclude students if, in their professional opinion, it is necessary.
- The school nurse may offer extra help to families with chronic infestations.

NOTE:

Diagnosis head lice – Head lice may be found anywhere on the head hair, but are often easiest to locate on the scalp behind the ears and near the neckline at the back of the neck. Adult female lice deposit nits on the hair about 1 mm from the scalp. Under good lighting and using a comb, search the head for viable nits and crawling lice. Live lice are sometimes difficult to see as they move quickly and there are usually less than 10 lice on a head. Tape the live louse on a white background and view with magnification to see it more clearly.