

HEAD LICE

This policy for managing cases of head lice (pediculosis) in Ledyard Public Schools is based on current standards for public health, scientific research and evidenced-based best practices as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Connecticut State Department of Public Health (DPH). These agencies all recommend that students with nits (eggs) and/or head lice remain in school and not be immediately excluded.

Mass screenings for head lice will not be conducted in Ledyard Public Schools.

Student privacy must be maintained at all times. Diagnosis of head lice will be conducted in the nurse's office in order to maintain student privacy.

If head lice are found on a student at school, that student's parents will be informed by the school nurse. There will be no requirement for the student to be dismissed from school. The school nurse will provide educational information to the parent and will follow up on actions taken by the parents, including rechecking students within the recommended timeframe.

Upon confirmation of a case of head lice, the principal will provide notice to families of the students in that particular class. The school nurse will assist the principal in this communication and will provide educational information. The principal is not required to again notify the parents if a second case of head lice is confirmed within seven (7) days of the initial case.

If two or more concurrent cases, in two or more classes, of head lice are confirmed within a single grade level, the principal will provide notice of the multiple diagnoses to families of the students in that particular grade level. The school nurse will assist the principal in this communication and will provide educational information.

School nurses will not apply treatments for head lice at school.

Actions to Minimize the Risk of Contracting/Spreading Head Lice

At the beginning of each school year, the school nurse will provide a handout to staff members and parents on ways to prevent contracting head lice.

Routine screening for head lice at home and prompt communication with the school nurse are the most critical steps parents can take to prevent the spread of head lice at school. Therefore, parents are asked to please inform the school nurse(s) immediately if their child is found to have head lice. The information provided by parents is confidential and names of affected students shall not be shared with other families.

Students
HEAD LICE

Policy 5141.23 (b)

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance –

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2015/04/21/eds.2015-0746.full.pdf>

National Association of School Nurses –

<https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/blogs/nasn-profile/2017/03/13/head-lice-management-in-the-school-setting>

Connecticut State Department of Public Health

<http://www.portal.ct.gov/DPH/Infectious-Diseases/ID-Home/Head-Lice---Fact-Sheet>

“Demystifying Pediculosis: School Nurses Taking the Lead” –

<https://www.pediatricnursing.net/ce/2016/article4005226235.pdf>

Policy Adopted: April 11, 2018

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut