

PLEASANTS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

School Health Policy

The Pleasants County Board of Education recognizes the importance of regular school attendance and the maintenance of a learning environment conducive to the academic success of children. When dealing with cases of *Pediculosis* (lice), these two areas are often in conflict. In an effort to reconcile these areas, while still protecting other children from infestation, the following procedures shall be followed when children with this condition are identified. Pleasants County Schools, in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses, has ascertained that “**NO NIT**” policies are ineffective in controlling outbreaks of head lice. Pleasants County Schools will address each issue on a case by case basis. However, if a student is found with *live lice* at school, they will be referred home for treatment. After treatment, the student **can** return to school with or without nits. The following guidelines apply.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The school nurse will check for live lice if there is a suspected case.
- The school nurse will discuss and send an educational pamphlet home to the parent regarding steps to rid the student and home of lice.
- Siblings, locker mates, and close contacts of the student found with lice will be screened. As per recommendation of the West Virginia Council of School Nurses (WVCOSN) classroom screenings are ***NOT*** warranted. **It is ineffective and inefficient to check an entire school population for head lice.**
- The school nurse will check the student upon returning to school to determine if he or she is free of live lice.
- After the student has returned to school, parents and school nurses should make periodic checks to assure the student does not have continued infestation, while ensuring confidentiality of the student.
- School nurses along with the schools will collaborate with other community agencies as needed.

Confidentiality of students will be maintained at all times.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Arrange for an infested student (student with live lice) to be transported home.
- Appropriately treat student, remove nits, treat other infested family members, and do all appropriate steps as instructed in educational pamphlet to rid the house of possible lice infestation.
- Check children daily/weekly for signs of head lice.
- Contact school nurse with any concerns.

The Pleasants County School Nurses will work with the Pleasants County Health Department for situations of serious and widespread head lice infestations.

Adopted: November 4, 2010

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (November 2010). Head Lice Information for Schools. Retrieved on November 2, 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>.
- Frankowski, B.L., & Weinter, L.B. (2002). Head Lice. *Pediatrics*. 126(2) 392-403. Retrieved on November 5, 2010 from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/126/2/392>.
- National Association of School Nurses. (July 2004). Position Statement. *Pediculosis in the School Community*. Retrieved on November 4, 2010 from <http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=237>.
- West Virginia Council of School Nurses. (2006). *Recommendations for Public School Lice Policy*. Retrieved from <http://wvde.state.wv.us/osshp/section6/COSN.htm>.
- Pollack, R. (2007). Harvard School of Public Health. *Head Lice Information*. Retrieved on September 6, 2010 from <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>.