

POLICY FOR HEAD LICE

Policy:

The policy of Easthampton Public Schools regarding head lice is that students *will* be dismissed during the school day for live lice and nits. If a student is reported to have head lice, the School Nurse will do the following:

1. The student will be examined to determine if there is an active infestation; live lice or many nits less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the scalp (due to the rate of hair growth, nits that are farther away from the scalp will not hatch or have already hatched) are grounds for dismissal.
2. If the School Nurse determines that there is an active infestation, the student's parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be picked up. The School Nurse will check the student's classroom.
3. It is the responsibility of the parents to make arrangements with the School Nurse for the student to be examined before re-entry to school. The parent must accompany the child to school for this examination so that the School Nurse can check for the presence of live lice, review treatment, and provide any needed instructions or support.
4. The amount of time allocated as an excused absence for the purpose of treatment will be determined by the School Nurse and Principal based upon the severity of the case. It is recognized that no student should routinely be excluded from school due to head lice and parents will be encouraged to treat promptly if needed and return the student to school the next day.
5. Chronic or repeated head lice infestations should be referred to the Public Health Nurse for consultation. In the case of repeated head lice infestations, the child may be excluded from school as long as the case is active (live lice) and until effective treatment has been provided.
6. The School Nurse will provide educational materials and resources to parents/guardians, students, and school staff regarding head lice infestations, management, and treatment.

School Protocol:

- ⌘ An informational bulletin regarding head lice infestation and management may be sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year.
- ⌘ If a case of head lice is confirmed, the School Nurse may conduct a classroom check or will check individual students as s/he deems necessary. Letters will also be sent to all parent/guardians of students in that child's class.

- ⌘ Siblings of any positive cases will be checked, plus the sibling's class if s/he proves positive and the School Nurse deems it necessary.
- ⌘ If the sibling attends another school, the School Nurse may contact the School Nurse at that school.
- ⌘ The Easthampton Public School Nurses Office does not provide medicated products for the treatment of head lice. The parent/guardian is advised to contact a health care provider for recommendations.
- ⌘ The School Nurse may send a letter to parents/guardians notifying them of a case of head lice if s/he deems it appropriate. The School Nurse will notify the Principal if this is done.

Approved by School Physician

Date

Approved by District Nurse

Date

Approved by School Superintendent

Date

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Adopted: _____