

Policy

MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

The Frenchtown Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthful learning environment for all children in the school district. One way to maintain this healthful learning environment is to manage pediculosis, a condition of a person having head lice. Head lice are very small insects that have claws that cling to hair and spend their entire life cycle on the heads of people. Head lice do not spread any diseases and having head lice is not prevented by personal or household cleanliness, use of shampoos, or length of hair. All social and economic groups can be affected by head lice. Because it is very difficult to totally prevent head lice infestations in schools where children come into close head-to-head contact with each other frequently, the board of education will take appropriate steps to manage pediculosis by way of this policy.

The board recognizes parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice and the school staff members will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist families in managing pediculosis.

A student who is found to have active head lice will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active lice in the student's hair and until all live head lice are removed as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse. The presence of nits, the eggs of lice, alone will not prohibit a child from attending school. Outdated "no nit" policies are the cause for unnecessary absences from school which may negatively affect academic performance.

The goal of the district in managing cases of head lice is to provide a safe and healthy environment for learning, one in which adults collaborate to:

- A. Establish evidence-based management protocols for students with head lice;
- B. Educate students, staff, and parents in the management of head lice in accordance with up-to-date scientific research.

The presence of active head lice in the student population will be determined and investigated as follows:

The school nurse will perform head checks of all students in a classroom where there are three or more active head lice cases in the same classroom within a two week period.

When a case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, the school nurse shall perform a head check of any of the infested student's siblings in the school. In addition, any time the school nurse has identified active head lice, the school nurse will conduct a head check of other students in the school who are most likely to have had head-to-head contact with the infested child.

Parental Notification

If the school nurse determines a student has active head lice, the parent shall be notified by the school nurse as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than the end of the school day. The parent will be provided a copy of the district's lice letter. The school nurse will advise the parent that prompt treatment of head lice is in the best interest of their child. The parent will be instructed in methods for elimination of infestation focusing on inspection for live lice and manual removal. The school nurse will determine to send the child home or have the child remain at school for the remainder of the school day based on the comfort of the child, the degree of the infestation, and the likelihood of the spread of head lice to other students.

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In addition, when a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all children in a class will be notified. The school nurse will perform a head check of a student if requested by the parent.

A student excluded from school for pediculosis shall be re-admitted only upon the examination and approval of the school nurse. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse should be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent. The student will be re-admitted to school only when there is no evidence of active head lice. The student will be re-admitted to school with nits if evidence is provided to the school nurse that the student received treatment and/or re-treatment, as appropriate.

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Key Words

Lice, Head Lice, Nits, Eggs, Pediculosis, Nurse,

Legal References:	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-3	Lectures to teachers
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:48-7 <u>et seq.</u>	Exclusion of pupils who are ill
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:40-8	Exclusion of pupils whose presence is detrimental to health and cleanliness
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:4-4	Notice to local board to control disease; proceeding to compel action
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:4-6	Prohibiting attendance of teachers or pupils
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Bylaw for the State Board of Education
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:2.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Commissioner
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:52-7 <u>et seq.</u>	Public health nursing
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-1.3	Reportable diseases
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-1.6	Reporting positive laboratory tests denoting diseases
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:57-2.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Applicability; definition of AIDS, HIV infection, perinatal HIV exposure, and CD4 count
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:61-1.1	HIV services and definitions

www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/SCRATCHHeadLiceResources

Possible

Cross References:	*3516	Safety
	*3542	Food service
	*4112.4	Employee health
	*4131/4131.1	Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences
	4151.2	Family illness/quarantine
	*4212.4	Employee health
	4251.2	Family illness/quarantine
	*5111	Admission
	*5125	Pupil records
	*5141	Health
	*5141.1	Accidents
	*5141.2	Illness
	*5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
	*5141.4	Child abuse and neglect
	*5141.21	Administering medication
	*5142	Pupil safety
	*5200	Nonpublic school pupils

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*6142.4 Physical education and health

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.