

EAST NEWTON SCHOOL DISTRICT HEAD LICE POLICY

In keeping with the East Newton R-VI School District's policy of avoiding the unnecessary exclusion of students from school, the district will not exclude otherwise healthy students from school due to nit infestations. Students with head lice infestations will be excluded from school only to the minimum extent necessary for treatment. To avoid the unnecessary exclusion of students from school, the administration provides the following procedure:

1. Schools will not perform routine schoolwide head lice screening. However, should multiple cases be reported, the nurse will identify the population of students most likely to have been exposed and arrange to have that population of students examined.
2. If the school nurse or teacher discovers head lice or nits on a student, the parent/guardian of that student will be notified, and other students who reside with the infected student will also be checked.
3. The school nurse will instruct the parent/guardian concerning various shampoos, sprays and other appropriate treatments that can be purchased to eliminate head lice or nits and will also give information concerning necessary procedures to be taken in the home to ensure that the head lice are eliminated.
4. If the student was infected with live head lice, the student should not return to school for 24 hours after the discovery of the head lice to allow for treatment.
5. When a student who had a live head lice infestation returns to school, the student will be examined by the school nurse. If live head lice are found at that time, the parent/guardian will again be called and reinstructed concerning treatment. The student will be excluded from school for 24 hours to allow for additional treatment. This process will continue until the student is free of head lice.
6. A student who was identified as having nits but not a live head lice infestation will be re-examined within five (5) calendar days of the initial identification. If this examination reveals nits are still present, the parent/guardian will again be instructed on treatment options. This process will repeat until the student is free of nits.
7. The school nurse will keep accurate and confidential records of students infected with head lice or nits.
8. If it appears the parent/guardian of an infested student is failing to secure timely treatment for the infestation after having been given notice of the existence of head lice or nits in accordance with these procedures, the nurse will notify the school principal, who may report the matter to the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services.

The school nurse will develop education programs regarding the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of head lice for staff, students, parents and the community.

IDEAS FOR PREVENTING HEAD LICE INFESTATION

These are some ideas parents have shared with me through the years. These are just some suggestions on how you can help **prevent** a head lice infestation in your home.

1. Anytime your child has been around other children, school, church, friend's house etc, when they come home have him/her take a bath/shower and wash their hair. Wash the clothes they just took off as soon as possible. Place those clothes in a plastic bag if they are not going to be washed right away. **BLOW DRY** your child's hair as hot as they can stand it, being careful not to burn their scalps.
2. If they were wearing a coat, hat, scarf and they do not appear dirty place these items in the dryer and dry very hot for at least 10 minutes. If the items are dirty of course wash them first.
3. Anytime your child has friends spend the night it's a good idea to have children bring their own sleeping bags and pillows. If this is not feasible, always change the sheets and wash and dry the pillows.
4. It is a sad thing but you have to **think that everyone may have head lice** whether they do or not.
5. Remember that although head lice are spread in schools, children can contact head lice other places as well.
6. Doctors' and dentists' waiting room chairs, movie theatre seats, churches, and fast food play areas are also areas of possible lice contact.
7. Please do not treat your child or home with lice killing products unless you know for sure they have lice. Heat and vacuuming are two great defenses against lice.
8. Of course, stress to your child not to share combs, brushes, hats, helmets, coats etc.
9. Check your child's hair regularly and if they are scratching take a minute and check right then.
10. If your child does get head lice it can be frustrating, expensive, and a lot of work!
11. You will need to do something with anything your child's head may have touched. Lice do not fly or jump, they crawl. Any pillow, couch, carpet, bed, stuffed animal, cloth covered seats in cars/trucks, back packs, hats, helmets, ponytail holders, headbands etc. will need to be dried in a hot dryer or washed and dried very hot, dry cleaned, vacuumed or sprayed with lice killing products.
12. All nits must be removed from the hair. The information that is sent to us from the makers of lice killing products states any nit under 4 days old will not be killed by the products because their nervous system is not yet developed. The removing of the nits whether 4 days old or not will prevent them from hatching in your child's hair.
13. **All steps to rid your child and home of lice must be done at the same time or it will not be successful!**
14. **PREVENTION IS THE BEST SOLUTION!!!!**
15. If your child does get head lice Vaseline can be used to kill the lice. You apply enough Vaseline to completely cover the child's hair, cover with a shower cap and leave on hair for 8 hours. Then shampoo out. This will take **many, many** shampoos to get the Vaseline out of the hair. You might try using a grease cutting dish detergent such as, Dawn, to wash the hair. The Vaseline smothers the nits and lice.
16. A way to help remove the nits is to use a mixture of 1/2 mineral oil and 1/2 vinegar. Place this on the hair and leave for 2 hours. This will help loosen the nits for removal. It will not kill them.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to call me at 417-628-3551.