

## **KANAWHA COUNTY SCHOOLS HEALTH SERVICES**

### **PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) PROCEDURES ON SCREENING**

Kanawha County Schools Health Services, in cooperation with Kanawha –Charleston Health Department, and in accordance with the West Virginia Department of Education, American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses, has determined that “no-nit and no lice” policies are ineffective in controlling outbreaks of head lice. Therefore, students found to have nits and live lice will no longer be excluded from the classroom. If the lice or nits are less than ¼ inch or 1 cm from the scalp, then the parent/guardian shall be called and made aware of the situation. According to the CDC, head lice should not be considered a medical or public health hazard. A proper management tool in controlling head lice outbreaks is parent/guardian education.

#### School Responsibilities

1. Keep coats and jackets separated
2. Sweep all carpeted areas daily
3. Prohibit dress up hats or wigs in the classroom
4. Personalize towels or mats that are used for naps and store them so they aren't touching
5. Have two persons in the building trained by the school nurse to check for live lice infestation
6. Notify parent/guardian of head lice infestation. Provide parent/guardian with head lice treatment letter and head lice management information.

#### School Nurse Responsibilities

1. Train designated persons to screen for head lice.
2. See that schools have copies of the head lice treatment letters and head lice management information sheets.
3. Work with parents of students with chronic re-infestations to educate them regarding head lice management.
4. Upon request, provide information for students and staff about lice and lice management.

#### Parent Responsibilities

1. Arrange, if possible, for an infested student to be transported home
2. Appropriately, treat the student with a pediculicide, remove nits, treat other infested family members and do all appropriate house cleaning to rid the house of possible head lice infestation.
3. Check children periodically for signs of head lice. Notify the school if you determine that your child has head lice.

Confidentiality of infested students will be maintained at all times. After a child is sent home with a case of head lice, and the parent/guardian is informed of the treatment policy, a maximum of two excused absences will be allowed to complete the treatment process.

**It is ineffective and inefficient to check an entire school population for head lice.**

The Lead School Nurse, in collaboration with the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, may temporarily enforce stricter exclusion rules for situations of serious and widespread head lice infestations.