

## *Gloucester City School District*

While head lice continue to cause concern, they do not pose a health hazard, are not a sign of uncleanliness, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. All school staff members will maintain a sympathetic attitude and will not stigmatize and/or blame families who experience difficulty with control measures.

All school staff members will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community regarding issues of head lice. Each school in the district will educate and encourage children and parents to learn about head lice in an attempt to remove any stigma or to prevent any harassment, intimidation, and bullying associated with this issue.

Any instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall be reported and investigated in accordance with the provisions of the district's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.

### **The following 5 step process is in place for all Gloucester City Public Schools.**

**Step 1: Identification:** If a staff member believes that a child has the indications of Head Lice they are to report that information to the school nurse. The staff member should not discuss these issues with anyone else except the school nurse. Nurses will ensure that the child's rights of HIPPA and FERPA are respected. The nurse will also share the information with the building principal.

**Step 2: Nurses Head Lice Assessment:** the nurse will examine the student. The school nurse is the only certified person in the school that is permitted to make a Head Lice Assessment.

**Step 3: Student Positive Determination:** if there is a positive indication of live head lice the student will be sent home for treatment based on the nurse's assessment.

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.

**Step 4: Practices, Procedures and Materials:** if the student is sent home, the nurse will advise the parent /guardian of the practices, procedures and materials necessary to remove the active head lice from the student and their home. 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 all families in managing pediculosis.

**Step 5: Repeat Nurse's Assessment:** when the student returns to school, the nurse will do a **Repeat Nurse's Assessment** –to determine if the student was treated successfully or should be sent home from school. 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.

If live lice are discovered the parent will be notified and given treatment guidelines. Other students who were likely to have head-to-head contact with the infested child may also be screened; however classroom or school-wide screening is not necessary or effective.

Parents are advised to treat the same day.

- Use an over the counter or prescription shampoo, following directions closely. Check all family members as well; only use shampoo when live lice are found. A second treatment 7-10 days later may be necessary.
- Use a lice comb to remove nits; hand removing nits off hair shaft may be more effective.
- Replace combs and brushes or clean them in hot soapy water. Wash all clothes, hats, bedding and towels in hot water and dry on hot cycle. Items that cannot be washed should be stored in sealed plastic bags for a minimum of one week.
- Vacuum carpets, mattresses and furniture. You may also want to clean your car. The use of sprays is not recommended.

All parents are encouraged to continually monitor their child for head lice and treat as needed.

Cases of active head lice will be recorded by the school nurse in each school for the purpose of tracking incident rates and mandatory reporting of outbreaks will be done according to the New Jersey Department of Health criteria for reporting outbreaks.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee will oversee the development of any additional procedures for the implementation of this Policy.