

## HEAD LICE (NEW HANOVER COUNTY SCHOOLS)

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Policy is to establish clear guidelines regarding the control of head lice in the New Hanover County Schools. The scope of this Policy applies to New Hanover County Schools personnel and New Hanover County Health Department School Nurses.

### Procedures

Upon identification of lice on a student, the school employee shall contact the school nurse or principal designee to verify head lice. **School nurse or school principal designee shall:**

- Directly examine the hair and scalp for lice and nits, especially at the nape of the neck end around the ears.
- If lice are verified, notify the student's parent/guardian and encourage picking up student to go home for treatment. A letter shall be sent home to parents of students in the classroom notifying them that lice have been verified in their student's classroom within one school day after a positive detection. The student shall not ride the school bus until they are cleared by the principal or the school nurse. **(PER NHC HEALTH DEPARTMENT: SCHOOL NURSE WILL NOT SEND PARENT LETTERS HOME AND WILL NOT DETERMINE BUS RIDING STATUS).**
- Reassure student that head lice are not a social disgrace and can be eliminated.
- Send home instruction sheets for lice control: "[Head Lice: 14 Day Checklist](#)"; and "[Nit Removal and Alternative Treatments for Head Lice](#)". Answer all parent/guardian questions regarding lice treatment, removal of nits, and home cleaning that may cause reoccurrence of lice (Nits are head lice eggs — eggs are laid by the adult female louse and hatch in seven to ten (7-10) days from a viable nit (egg casing), which appears as a clear, grayish ellipsoid, firmly attached to the hair shaft at the junction of the scalp with 1/4" or less. Viable eggs camouflage with pigment to match the hair color of the host. Hatched or empty casings (nits) can be distinguished by the milky white color and are easier to see. The empty nits are seen on the hair shaft further away from the scalp than the viable nits)

### Requirement for student to return to school:

- **PARENT MUST ACCOMPANY STUDENT TO SCHOOL**
- Upon student's arrival at school after 'lice identification, the school nurse or principal designee will examine the student's hair and scalp.
- If student has not been treated for lice, or lice are present, the student will be sent home.
- If only nits are present upon examination, the student may remain at school.

The school counselor, social worker or the school nurse can make home visits when needed for students with repeated cases of head lice. School personnel shall notify the Department of Social Services and the school principal if home visits, phone calls and school personnel assistance are not effective and lice infestation continues.

CROSS REFS: American Academy of Pediatric Council to School Health, National Association of School Nurses, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adoptee: 05/13/14, 09/15/14  
New Hanover County Public Schools, Wilmington, North Carolina

09152014