

Pittsford Central School District

Pediculosis Capitis (Head Lice) Infestation Guidelines

I. Introduction:

Pediculosis capitis (head lice) is common in school aged children. Head lice is easily transmitted from student to student. It is important that the school, nurse and family work together to eradicate head lice in school.

II. Philosophy:

The philosophy of the Pittsford Central School District is to prevent the spread of pediculosis capitis (head lice). The district recognizes that time to time students will have head lice. However, to prevent the spread of head lice we will exclude students from our school until treatment that meets the guidelines outlined in this document occurs and until live lice are no longer present. The school system staff will work in partnership with parents to eliminate lice and support families with treatment plans.

III. Procedures:

A. Parent Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the parent to:

1. Inform the school nurse if they suspect or have treated their child for head lice.
2. Pick up their child if s/he has active head lice during the school day and remove all clothing from school locker.
3. Treat their child for active lice with an FDA approved product (see attached list) prior to returning to school and continue to remove nits.
4. Bring their child to the school nurse for assessment before school re-entry.
5. If the child presents with active head lice after treatment, they must continue to be excluded until there are no live louses in their hair (parents should consult with their MD for advice).
6. Implement environment control measures as discussed with the school nurse.
7. Work with the school nurse if re-infestation occurs or nit removal is difficult.

B. School Nurse: It is the responsibility of the school nurse to:

1. Examine any student who is suspected of having head lice.
2. Notify principal of confirmed cases.
3. Screen students who may have been in close contact with infected student.
 - a. At elementary, classroom students and siblings.
 - b. At secondary, close contacts and siblings.
 - c. If siblings attend a different school, notify the nurse of the school of attendance.
4. Notify parents of the need to bring child home and treat prior to re-entry. Provide information regarding importance of nit removal, hygiene and environmental control measures.
5. At elementary level, send an informational letter home to the student's class with the first identified case and the Head Lice fact sheet. Repeat, as needed.

6. At elementary level: Re-screen the student upon school re-entry and every 2-3 days until day 14. If the student presents with live head lice during this time they need to be excluded and treatment advice from their MD obtained.
 7. At secondary level: Rescreen the student upon school re entry. If the student presents with live head lice during this time they need to be excluded and treatment advice from MD obtained.
 8. Work with the parent if re-infestation occurs or nit removal is difficult.
 9. Keep the classroom teacher and other staff informed and provide information about environmental control measures (see D.2.)
 10. Educate students regarding head lice.
 11. Maintain confidentiality at all times.
 12. Keep the principal informed.
 13. Refer complicated cases to family physician for evaluation and treatment e.g. scalp inflammation, signs of infection or intolerance to medications.
 14. For persistent or recurrent cases refer parents to the Monroe County Health Department for assistance.
- C. Principal: It is the responsibility of the principal to support the school nurse with non compliance issues or parental concerns.
- D. Staff: It is the responsibility of staff members to:
1. Release students to nurse for screening
 2. Implement environmental control measures as advised by the school nurse. Such measures include, but are not limited to:
 - Remove pillows and stuffed animals from the classroom and enclose in plastic bags for 2 weeks.
 - Assign students individual clothing hooks.
 - Instruct students to keep hats in coat sleeves or pockets.
 - Segregate student clothing in large plastic bags.
 - Discontinue classroom activities involving “dress up” costumes or hats.
 - Discontinue sharing of headphones or goggles unless thoroughly cleaned with an approved disinfectant between student use.
 - Vacuum carpeted classrooms thoroughly each day.
 3. Maintain confidentiality
- E. Inspection Procedures:
1. Examine student’s head using direct visual inspection for nits (eggs) or lice by parting the hair with wooden applicator sticks, paying attention to nap of neck and area around the ears. Gloves are not necessary.
 2. Use different sticks for each student.