



## PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

The Regional School Unit-24 (RSU) Board (RSIB) establishes the following guidance to deal with head lice within RSU schools. This Policy complies with the best medical information available to the RSUB, combined with a common sense approach that best serves the needs of all RSU students, while containing further infestation of head lice within our schools, to the best of our ability.

### Goals:

- a. Identify infested individuals and ensure that they are properly treated
- b. Break the cycle of re-infestations
- c. Decrease school absences for students
- d. Provide information to teachers, students, parents and staff regarding appropriate management of head lice infestation, and
- e. Establish appropriate management/response for students chronically infested with head lice.

### Procedure:

The RSU School Nurse will comply with the following:

- a. Examine the student(s) to determine if there is an active infestation, live lice or many nits less than one-quarter inch from the scalp. (Due to the rate of hair growth, nits that are farther away from the scalp will not hatch or have already hatched and are not an immediate concern).
- b. If a student has an active infestation, the student's parent will be notified to arrange pick-up of the student ASAP. Students will remain out of the classroom while awaiting pick up. A treatment instruction sheet will be supplied to the parent
- c. Require that an infected student be treated with an appropriate head lice product before returning to school. (There is no time limit a student must remain out of school; therefore they may be re-admitted as soon as they have completed their first treatment).
- d. Upon return to school, the student will be examined for lice/nits PRIOR to being admitted to the classroom by an RSU Nurse, who will determine his/her status and contact the parent if deemed necessary, regarding additional treatment.
- e. Ensure that appropriate educational materials and resources are available in the Nurses office for distribution to parents, students, and staff regarding head lice infestations, management, and treatment.
- f. RSU School Nurses may establish more stringent procedures in any situation they deem as medically necessary to control current and/or future infestation(s).

**Notes:** 1. The Building Administrator (BA), or a knowledgeable staff person designated by him/her, may examine students for head lice/nits if the School Nurse is not available or otherwise occupied. The BA may take action(s) as required by this Policy as deemed necessary, and will advise the School Nurse as soon as practicable.

2. Chronic or persistent head lice infestations will be referred to the BA, who shall notify the Superintendent, and then may report it to the Public Health Officer.

**Support:**

Only the material approved and provided by the RSU School Nurse's Office will be distributed within RSU schools, and any such material shall be consistent across all RSU schools/offices.

**Note:** As in all RSU Policies, "parent" refers to a student's parent and/or legal guardian.

Reference: Harvard School of Public Health – <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>  
CDC – <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/headlice/default.htm>  
National Association of School Nurses – <http://www.nasn.org/positions/nitfree.htm>  
School Integrated Pest Management – <http://www.state.me.us/agriculture/pesticides/schoolipm>  
Authority granted to RSU School Nurses/BA's by the RSUB in this Policy

Approved as Emergency: September 20, 2011

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