

PEDICULOSIS PROCEDURE

Philosophy:

The Ohio Department of Health is aware of the special problems associated with institutional control of head lice. It is in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health and the Gallia County Health Department, that the Gallipolis City School District has implemented a specific policy regarding head lice. We feel that facilities who develop, disseminate, and implement specific policy and procedures are most successful in preventing epidemics and subduing resentment and confusion that often accompanies this problem.

Screening:

At the beginning of each school year, the school nurse will screen a percentage of students at each elementary school for head lice. These children will be picked at random. Appropriate case finding and follow-up will be carried out by the school nurse based on the results of the screening.

Identification and Dismissal:

Children identified with head lice infestation will be sent home with the parent, if possible. Children that cannot be sent home due to unavailability of the parents will remain in school for the remainder of the day with restrictions on activities that require close personal contact.

Parents who visit the school to pick up their children will be given education in the treatment and follow-up of head lice. Those parents unable to pick up their children will be given the same information on the telephone. A letter of instruction will be sent home with the child, as well as a letter of exclusion and readmittance slip. They will be instructed in:

1. Treatment methods for head lice including treatment of child, his/her clothing and other personal articles.
2. Identification of nits in other family members and their contacts.
3. Services of local health department applying to head lice. (treatment education, rechecks, parent and teacher education on head lice, etc.)
4. How to remove nits from the hair shaft and the importance of doing this.
5. Readmission policy: Child may return to school after initial treatment with the form signed by the school nurse, health aide, physician, or health department stating their inspection shows progressive improvement as evidenced by no live lice, and a decrease in nits as per the school nurse/health aide's discretion.
6. Rechecks conducted by the Gallia County Health Department are to be conducted at the health department on an appointment basis. Appointments will be scheduled within 24 hours of the request for recheck. There will be no fee for rechecks.
7. Infested children will be rechecked by the school nurse or health aide within two (2) weeks after returning to school. If infestation is found, initial measures will be reinstated.

Parents are encouraged to report to the school if their child has been identified or treated for head lice. This is necessary in order that the child's contacts, siblings, and other classmates can be checked. Readmission to school is based upon a signed or verbal statement from either the school nurse, health aide, health department, or physician that the student is free of live lice and shows progressive improvement.

Prevention and Education:

Prevention education and classroom management of lice will be conducted as necessary by the school nurse and health aide. The Gallia County Health Department nurses will conduct prevention, identification and treatment education upon request by the building principal to school nurses, teachers, staff and parents. Decisions regarding letters to families, distribution of educational materials, and contacting other media sources will be determined by the school principal and school nurse in the event of a lice epidemic.

PROCEDURE FOR PEDICULOSIS SCREENING

Procedure:

1. Potential or suspected evidence that a child has lice.
2. The school nurse/health aide then inspects that child in a private setting. All inspections are to be done by removing barrettes, braids, etc., in order to adequately determine and inspect the child's head.
3. Positive findings require that the remaining members of the classroom, siblings, and other suspected contacts be screened. This may require communication to other schools where siblings or close contacts are attending.
4. Notification of findings to the principal.
5. Notification to family.
6. Principal sends instruction form (Form 1), exclusion form (Form 2), and readmission form (Form 3), with the child.
7. Instructions are given to the parent if the child is picked up at school.
8. Student is readmitted to school after presenting Form 3 (Readmission), signed by either the school nurse, health aide, physician, or local health department stating that the child is progressing in treatment.
9. Families that notify principals of identified and treated cases of lice should be informed that Form 3 (Readmission) is required for admittance and is to be given to the principal/designee.
10. Students who do not comply with the two (2) day maximum absence for treatment of lice may require further investigation.
11. Children infested and identified with head lice will be rechecked within two (2) weeks by the school nurse or health aide after returning to school.

[Approval date: March 18, 1998]

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