

Students

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

1. Students found to be infested with head lice shall be medically dismissed from school pending treatment of such condition.
2. Students will be dismissed from school only with a parent, relative or designated responsible adult.
3. At the time of a positive identification of head lice, all possible known contacts such as siblings, classmates, etc., will be checked by the nurse. Parents of elementary classmates will be notified by hand carried letters of an incidence of head lice in the school and advised to check children frequently and notify the school nurse if the condition is suspected.
4. No student excluded by the school or kept home by a parent because of this condition shall be allowed to enter the classroom without written approval from the school nurse.
5. Once the treatment has been completed successfully and the nurse has approved re-entry, the child will be checked weekly until they have been found lice and/or nit-free for three consecutive weeks.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 "Education for Children with Disabilities", 20 U.S.C. 1400, et seq.
 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(7)(b).
 "Americans with Disabilities Act".
 The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, 45 C.F.R. 99.
 Connecticut General Statutes
 10-15b Access of parent or guardian to student's records.
 10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome.
 10-66b Regional educational service centers. Operation and management. Board.
 10-76(d)(15) Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services.
 10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student.
 10-207 Duties of medical advisors.
 10-209 Records not to be public.
 10-210 Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian.
 19a-221 Quarantine of certain persons.
 19a-581-585 AIDS testing and medical information.

Policy adopted: August 17, 2010

PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Putnam, Connecticut

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

As your child's school nurse, I want to welcome your child back to school for what promises to be a productive and exciting new school year. I also want to make you aware of a medical problem that impacts schools around the country, usually this time of year when students reconvene for classes.

Pediculosis, or head lice, is a condition that each year affects approximately six to twelve million children between the ages of three and twelve years of age, and about one in every 1200 elementary school children. Head lice are parasites that are generally found on the scalp, around the ears, and at the back of the neck. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, and can be a reddish brown color. Eggs, or nits, are smaller and silver in color.

Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and they do not transmit disease. Transmission from one child to another can occur during direct contact or sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes, caps or helmets.

The most common symptom of head lice is head scratching, particularly at night, although red bite marks may also be noticed. If you suspect that your child has head lice, he or she should be examined by your health care provider. Nit picking with a fine-tooth comb along with safe and effective products are available, both over the counter and by doctor's prescription, to treat this problem. It is important to follow the directions carefully. Parents should also wash in hot water or dry clean all recently worn clothing, hats, used bedding, and towels. Personal care items such as combs, brushes and hair clips should also be washed in hot water.

My goal as school nurse is to provide you with the information you need to safeguard your child's health, and ensure that his or her education is not disrupted, but remains the most positive experience possible. I hope you find this information useful, and I send best wishes to your child for a rewarding school year.

For a healthy school,

School Nurse