

Chittenden Central Supervisory Union
Policy: Nits and Head Lice
Code: JHCE

Policy

The Chittenden Central Supervisory Union (CCSU) Board recognizes that Pediculosis (head lice) is a common challenge for families and agencies dealing with children. While lice cannot be completely eliminated, the Board encourages cooperative measures within the school community to control for lice and nits.

It is the policy of the CCSU member school districts to prevent, monitor, and manage outbreaks of head lice at the school level. The advantages of this policy are:

- encouragement of home cooperation in screening and treatment;
- help in preventing self-reinfestation and transmission; and,
- reduction or elimination for further and unnecessary subsequent treatment.

The psychological, social and economical impact of head lice infestations can create a problem in the community. Recognizing that a sizeable number of cases exist from time to time, the schools of the CCSU will take the necessary measures to reduce the loss of instructional time for students. This policy is based on current recommendations by the Vermont Department of Health and other public health organizations.

Prevention strategies are an important part of controlling the spread of lead lice. The Superintendent and/or their designee, using public health resources when necessary, will develop a plan detailing a system-wide approach to preventing and controlling the spread of a head lice infestation. The plan will include the following:

1. Identification of partners who will need to collaborate on the management and prevention of outbreaks such as parents and children, school nurses and other school personnel, child care providers, local physicians, public health staff, community health offices, community volunteers and other community and business members (e.g. dry cleaners, laundromats, pharmacies).
2. The provision of in-service education for staff with emphasis on diagnosis, mode of transmission, treatment, and control plans when necessary.
3. The preparation of educational materials which will be distributed or made available to parents and students as well as information and materials to be provided immediately following any outbreak at school.
4. Institute school and classroom practices that include

- Periodically checking students for head lice and nits as necessary and when symptoms warrant.
- Assign individual hooks or spaces for student belongings such as hats.
- Have students keep their hats inside their coat sleeves.
- Permanently assign resting mats, towels or pillows and keep separate while in use or in storage.
- Discourage sharing of hats, clothing, combs, brushes or hair ornaments.
- Limit the transporting of personal toys such as stuffed animals from home to school.

Managing Head Lice Cases

1. Any staff member who suspects head lice will report evidence of head lice or nits immediately to the school nurse or Principal.
2. Any student identified by the school nurse (or qualified designee) as having lice and untreated nits shall be discouraged from close contact with others and be sent home at the end of the school day.
3. Verbal and written instructions for treatment will be given to the family of each identified student. The instructions shall include a suggestion that the parent or guardian of the student contact the child's health care provider regarding questions about treatment. Instructions shall also include recommendations for treatment that are consistent with Vermont Departments of Health and Education guidelines and that the student may return to school after proper treatment.
4. The school nurse or other trained personnel will examine all children in the same classroom with an identified active case (untreated nits or actual lice) as necessary and handle appropriately. Exceptions as determined by the building administrator and the school nurse may be made in cases where students are in multiple classrooms and activities and close contact is not routine (i.e. grades 9-12.). All siblings and close personal contacts in the school will be examined as necessary, and if infected, should be instructed on treatment. The school nurse or designee will contact all schools where siblings of the infected child attend.
5. Students will be readmitted to school after the first treatment with a written or verbal confirmation from the parent or guardian that the initial treatment has been completed. In accord with Department of Health recommendations, students will not be excluded from school

on the sole grounds that nits may be present despite appropriate treatment.

6. Each re-entering student will be examined by trained personnel to look for evidence that the treatment was performed. Re-treatment recommendations will be consistent with Vermont Department of Health and Department of Education guidelines. Parents will be notified of any re-infestation, and referred to the child's health care provider for consideration of prescription medication.
7. If the number of cases is considered to constitute an outbreak, administrative personnel will institute the outbreak procedures that accompany this policy. An outbreak is considered to have occurred when head lice infestation occurs in 2-3 students in the same classroom or when 10% of the individuals in a classroom, school, or child care facility have evidence of infestation.
8. The school nurse will provide additional in-service education as needed for staff with emphasis on diagnosis, treatment and control plans.
9. The school nurse will initiate educational programs for students and parents of non-affected children as necessary. When necessary, a notification letter and information sheet will be sent home with children who have had close contact with an infected child. In cases of a school-wide outbreak all parents/guardians will be notified.

Date of First Reading: January 29, 2007

Date Adopted: April 16, 2007

Legal References:

VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices, §2120.8.1.3.3

VT School Health Services Manual: Standards of Practice,
Appendix 29-A-1 through 29-A-8