

**MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HEALTH SERVICES**

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS) PROTOCOL

In accordance with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses, the Mansfield Public School System adopts the following protocol for the management of Pediculosis (Head Lice).

It is the position of the Mansfield Public School System that the management of pediculosis should not disrupt the educational process. Children found with live head lice or children with nits who have had no recent treatment, will be dismissed to parents/guardians for treatment. Because no disease process is associated with head lice, students will not be excluded from school after the appropriate lice treatment. Upon the return, the School Nurse will determine the evidence of treatment and the child may be readmitted even if some nits remain. Further monitoring for signs of re-infestation by the School Nurse is appropriate.

In addition, the school district endeavors to protect students from head lice infestation by the reinforcing the following procedures in instances where head lice are found to exist on a student:

1. When live lice or nits are observed on a student, the parent will be notified and the affected student will be dismissed by the school nurse.
2. The school nurse will provide the parent with instruction on proper treatment of head lice as outlined on the "Head Lice Information Sheet".
3. The school nurse will also examine any siblings of the affected child, and if there are siblings in other schools in the district, notify the nurse in that building to do the same.
4. Once the child is treated with an appropriate pediculicide, they may return to school.
5. Upon return, the child will be checked by the school nurse before re-entry to class and checked weekly for four consecutive weeks. In the event of recurring infestation, head checks may be more frequent at the discretion of the school nurse.
6. Close contacts of affected students will be checked by the school nurse for possible infestation. In grades K-3, this may include classroom head checks.
7. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times when dealing with affected students.
8. In the event of an epidemic {20% or greater of the student population}, notification will be sent home to all parents. Otherwise, general educational information will be disseminated as needed via parent newsletters and/or Ebackpack to inform parents of procedures for monitoring their own children for infestation.