

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Summit School Nurses recently conferred with surrounding districts and reviewed recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Disease Control and The National Association of School Nurses' relating to head lice. These efforts resulted in the creation of a new Board of Education Policy (#8454) related to the management of head lice in Summit Public Schools.

The intent of this letter is to introduce the district policy, to discuss procedures related to the management of head lice in school, and to provide additional resources to families for further exploration of the topic.

POLICY: The Summit School District's policy can be found on our district website. They are based on evidence-based research and standard practice recommendations by the CDC (Center for Disease Control), the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), NASN (the National Association of School Nurses), ASHA (American School Health Association) and the Harvard School of Public Health.

PROCEDURES: These are key points from our policy.

1. Exclusion: A student who is found to have active head lice will be excluded from school until:
 - a. There are NO active lice in the student's hair.
 - b. Proof of treatment has been provided to the school nurse ("Verification of Treatment for Head Lice") Form.
 - c. All live and/or dead head lice are removed from the student's hair as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse.
 - d. If the school nurse determines that a student has active head lice or nits, the parent shall be confidentially notified by the school nurse. The parent will be provided a copy of the district's "Management of Pediculosis Information Packet" and the "Pediculosis Policy". The school nurse will determine to send the child home or have the child remain at school for the remainder of the school day based on the comfort of the child, the degree of the infestation, and the likelihood of the spread of head lice to other students.
 - e. The presence of nits (the eggs of lice) without active head lice will NOT prohibit a child from attending school provided proof of treatment has been provided to the nurse and there is no evidence of active head lice in the student's hair.

2. Prevention: The following actions will be taken to prevent the spread of head lice in district schools:
 - a. When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all children in a class will be notified. A copy of a "Head Lice Alert

Notice”, the district’s “Management of Pediculosis Information Packet” , and the Pediculosis Policy will be sent to all parents of children in the class.

- b. The information provided to parents will clearly notify them that treatment should only be performed on their child if active head lice or nits are found in their child’s scalp and treatment should NOT be applied as a preventative measure.
- c. Parents are expected to notify the school nurse if they find active head lice or nits in their child’s scalp.
- d. The school nurse will perform head checks of all students in a classroom where there are 3 or more active head lice cases or nits in the same classroom within a 2 week period.
- e. The school nurse shall perform a head check of any of the infested student’s siblings in the school. If a sibling(s) attends a different school in the district, the school nurse in the sibling’s school will be notified and the school nurse may conduct a head check of the sibling(s).
- f. The school nurse may conduct a head check of other students in the school who are most likely to have had head-to-head contact with the infested child.
- g. Cases of active head lice will be recorded by the school nurse in each school for the purpose of tracking incident rates and mandatory reporting of outbreaks will be done according to the New Jersey Department of Health criteria.

3. Providing Information: As always, the certified school nurse will work closely with parents and children to provide educational and emotional support.

- a. If active lice or nits (eggs) are found, the parent will be confidentially notified and provided with information about proper treatment options
- b. Parents of children with head lice will be encouraged to talk to other parents and close friends in order to control the spread of lice to others. Parents will not be notified of the other children who have lice in school to protect their privacy.
- c. Students with lice will be checked when they return to school as needed.
- d. Classroom head checks will be at the discretion of the school nurses and only in the youngest grades (pre-K and Kindergarten) where the risk of transmission is higher (types of play involving head to head contact).
- e. Parents will be asked to complete a district treatment verification form upon their child’s return to school.

4. Additional Resources: More information is available on our district website under “Student Health Services” OR Summit Schools District Home page - Departments-Health Services and the National Association of School Nurses website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/summit.k12.nj.us/summit-student-health-services/>

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn/programs/educational-initiatives/lice-lessons>

The Summit School Nurses and our administrators recognize the need to maintain a healthy learning environment for all children in the Summit Public School District. One way to maintain this healthy learning environment is to manage head lice (pediculosis). We recognize that although head lice are a nuisance, they do not cause disease and are not dangerous to the child or to others. We are confident that this comprehensive plan to identify, treat and control the spread of head lice in our schools will result in improved nursing care while minimizing barriers to the education of our students.

Please feel free to contact us with your comments and questions.

Sincerely,

The Summit School Nurses