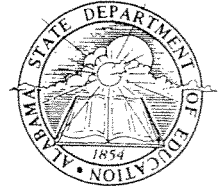




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent
of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

February 24, 2006

MEMORANDUM

Governor Bob Riley
President

TO: City and County Superintendents

Randy McKinney
District I
President Pro Tem

FROM: Joseph B. Morton
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters
District II

RE: Alabama School Health Recommended Guidelines for the Control of Pediculosis in Schools

Stephanie W. Bell
District III

The *Alabama School Health Recommended Guidelines for the Control of Pediculosis in Schools* was sent to all local education agencies (LEAs) during the 1997-98 school year. The Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), in response to numerous requests from LEA personnel and parents for assistance in dealing with pediculosis (head lice) in the school setting, cooperatively developed this document. These guidelines were written to assist school personnel in the development of local policy and procedures for pediculosis. The "No Nit" policy, which was suggested as a guideline for the prevention and effective control of pediculosis in the school setting, is now being discouraged by the medical authorities that were resources in the development of this document.

Dr. Ethel H. Hall
District IV
Vice President
Emerita

The ADPH does not require that a student with nits be denied attendance in school, and this position is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). Recent data does not support school exclusion for nits. Because no disease process is associated with head lice, schools are not advised to exclude students when nits remain after **appropriate lice treatment**, although further monitoring for signs of re-infestation is recommended. Children found with live head lice should be referred to their parents for treatment.

Ella B. Bell
District V

The school nurse is the most knowledgeable professional in the school setting on this topic and is ideally suited to provide education and anticipatory guidance regarding "Best Practices" of pediculosis management. The school nurse's goals are to contain infestation, provide appropriate health information for treatment and prevention, prevent overexposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absences.

David F. Byers, Jr.
District VI

Sandra Ray
District VII
Vice President

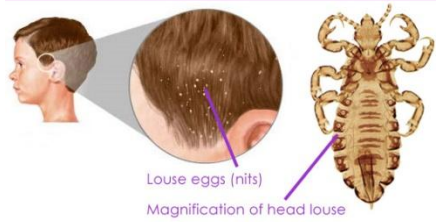
Please make the necessary revisions to your present pediculosis policy to reflect the current position statements of our medical authorities. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Martha S. Holloway, State School Nurse Consultant, at (334) 242-8199 or mholloway@alsde.edu.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
District VIII

Joseph B. Morton
Secretary and
Executive Officer

JBM/MH/CM
Enclosures
FY06-2101

Spotting head lice



Head Lice

What are Head Lice?

- Head lice are parasitic insects that can be found on the head, eyebrows, and eyelashes of people.
- Head lice feed on human blood and live close to the human scalp. They are not known to spread disease.

How does Head Lice spread?

- Head-to-head contact with an already infested person is the most common way you get head lice.
- Head-to-head contact is common during play at school, at home, and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, slumber parties, and camp).
- Although uncommon, head lice can be spread by sharing clothing or belongings. This happens when lice crawl, or nits attached to hair that is shed hatch, and get on the shared clothing or belongings.
- Dogs, cats, and other pets do not play a role in the spread of head lice.

What are the symptoms?

- Tickling feeling of something moving in the hair.
- Itching, caused by an allergic reaction to the bites of the head lice.
- Irritability and difficulty sleeping; head lice are most active in the dark.
- Sores on the head caused by scratching.

How do I stop the spread?

- Avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact.
- Do not share clothing such as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair ribbons, or barrettes. Do not share combs, brushes, or towels. Disinfect combs & brushes.
- Lice can be spread as long as lice or eggs remain viable on the infested person or on clothing/surfaces. An adult life span is approximately one month. Lice eggs remain viable on clothing for 1 month. Head lice can survive for about 2 days after falling off a person. Nymphs can only survive 24 hours without feeding. Under suitable conditions, head lice eggs can remain viable away from the host for up to 7-10 days.
- According to CDC, children diagnosed with head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun.



Alabama Department of Public Health

Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division, 201 Monroe St, Montgomery, AL 36104

800-338-8374 www.adph.org/epi

- CDC does not make recommendations as to what specific product or products should be used to treat individuals. Both over-the-counter and prescription products are available. You may wish to contact your doctor, pharmacist, or health department for additional information about which product they recommend.

Where can I find more information?

- Go to cdc.gov and type Head Lice in SEARCH box.



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