

# WEST CARROLLTON SCHOOL DISTRICT HEAD LICE GUIDELINES

Effective February 2011, the head lice guidelines for the West Carrollton School District have changed. Recent scientific research indicates that the greatest concern relative to head lice is social stigma, loss of school time and toxicity due to over-treatment with shampoos. Currently, there is no scientific evidence demonstrating that enforced exclusion policies are effective at reducing head lice transmission. Lice control takes teamwork among home, schools, after-school programs, and events in private and public locations, including student visits in each other's homes.

## Goals

- Identify infested individuals and see that they receive safe and effective treatment.
- Break the cycle of infestations.
- Increase academic achievement by decreasing school absences related to head lice.
- Provide education for parents and teachers regarding prevention and treatment of head lice.

## Procedures

- Students may only be excluded from school under the direction of the School Nurse, School Principal or Superintendent.
- All absences related to head lice treatment may be unexcused without a physician's statement.
- Because of the lack of efficacy, no school-wide screenings will be conducted.

## Initial Identification of Infestation

- Cases of lice should be confirmed by the School Nurse, Clinic Aide or trained WCSD staff only.

## Live Lice

- All students identified with **live lice** will be sent home. Siblings attending any West Carrollton school should have their head checked. Parent/Guardian will be notified to treat their child for head lice and of the readmission guidelines.
- Educational materials about treatment and prevention will be explained to parent/guardian if needed and will be sent home with student at the end of the day.
- Alert letters will only be sent home in the event of a high percentage of students are infested in a classroom.
- Proper disposal of live lice in the clinic will consist of immersing the louse in rubbing alcohol or trapping the louse between scotch tape and placing in trash can.

## **Nits**

- Students identified with **nits only** will have their parent/guardian contacted to see if treatment for head lice has taken place recently. The student will be sent home at the end of the school day by regular method for the student.
- Educational material about nit removal and prevention of lice will be provided to parent/guardian.
- Student will have their head checked in 5 days to verify that no live lice are present.
- If on the 5<sup>th</sup> day, no live lice are found the student will not need to be checked again.

## **Requirements for Readmission to School if Live Lice are Found**

The head lice treatment statement should be completely filled out upon the student's return. A responsible adult should accompany the student to the school clinic. The student will be rechecked by trained school personnel for live lice. If live lice are found, the student will be sent home. This process will be repeated until no live lice are found.

## **Follow-up Procedures**

- If student had live lice he/she will be re-examined on date when product re-treatment is advised. If parent/guardian chooses to manually extract all live lice, the student will be re-examined in 5 days. If live lice are found, the student will be sent home. The above readmission requirements will be repeated.
- Rechecking on product re-treatment date will continue until no evidence of live lice is found on two consecutive examinations.
- The school nurse should be notified on third failed examination.

## **Treatment Failures and Frequent Re-infestations**

- When repeated infestations occur, a note from the student's health care provider may be required to assure the student's safety and family compliance.

## **Classroom Control Measures**

- The Health Team will provide teachers with the "Checklist for Classroom Lice Control." Contact the School Nurse for any questions regarding classroom lice control.
- Teachers will send students to the clinic for inspection if lice are visible in the hair or excessive scratching of the scalp is noted.
- Schools are encouraged to discontinue fabric-covered items, i.e., pillows, blankets used by more than one child. Teachers and/or Assistants should not allow piling of coats.