**JLCC**

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

This policy is adopted to carry out the provisions of RSA 200:32, RSA 200:38, and RSA 200:39.

Pediculosis: Screening. Based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Board recognizes that school-wide screening for nits alone is not an accurate way of predicting which children will become infested with head lice, and screening for live lice has not been proven to have a significant decrease on the incidence of head lice in a school community. No student will be excluded from attendance solely based on grounds that nits may be present.

The school nurse will periodically provide information to families of all children on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. Parents are encouraged to check their children's heads for lice if the child is symptomatic. The school nurse may check a student's head if the student is demonstrating symptoms.

Management on the Day of Diagnosis. The Board recognizes that head lice infestation poses little risk to others and does not result in additional health problems. The management of pediculosis should proceed so as to not disrupt the education process. Nonetheless, any staff member who suspects a student has head lice will report this to the school nurse or Principal. Students known to have head lice will not remain in class. District employees will act to ensure that student confidentiality is maintained so the child is not embarrassed.

The Principal or school nurse will notify the parent/guardian by telephone or other available means if their child is found to have head lice. Verbal and written instructions for treatment will be given to the family of each identified student. Instructions will include recommendations for treatment that are consistent with New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services recommendations.

Based upon the school nurse's recommendation, other children who were most likely to have had direct head-to-head contact with the assessed child may be checked or screened for head lice.

Criteria for Return to School. Students will be allowed to return to school after an examination by the school nurse. The school nurse may recheck a child's head. In addition, the school nurse may offer extra help or information to families of children who are repeatedly or chronically infested.

If the condition persists after a period of fourteen (14) days, a Meeting will be held among the parents, appropriate school officials and the school nurse, to determine a satisfactory course of action.

In the event the preceding recommendations are not followed or the condition persists, the Superintendent or designee shall take whatever action it deems necessary, under the law to require the parents to fulfill their obligations to the child.

Legal Reference:

RSA 200:32, Physical Examination of Pupils

RSA 200:38, Control and Prevention of Communicable Diseases: Duties of School Nurse

RSA 200:39, Exclusion from School

American Academy of Pediatrics, Clinical Report on Head Lice Infestation, September 2002
http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;110/3/638

Appendix JLCC-R

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