

SCOTT COUNTY AREA SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT PLAN



DEVELOPED BY

SCOTT COUNTY KIDS HEALTH COMMITTEE

With representatives from

*Bettendorf Community School District
Davenport Community School District
North Scott Community School District
Pleasant Valley Community School District
Scott County Decategorization
Scott County Health Department
Scott County Non-Public Schools*

Background of Lice Policy

In 1999 Scott County area school districts formed a task force to review and revise the lice management program for the district. At that time the practice was a no-nits policy meaning students with live lice or nits were excluded. The task force revised the policy so that only those students who had live lice present were excluded from school until they had received treatment.

The task force reconvened in the fall of 2007 to again examine the policy. This guideline was developed following the recommendations of the Scott County Health Department, Iowa Department of Public Health, National Association of School Nurses and the Harvard School of Public Health. The guidelines contained within this document reflect the current industry standards for head lice screening and treatment as of this review date February 2008.

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SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY
Head Lice Guidelines

As a part of a community plan, the Scott County area schools will support families by emphasizing prevention, early detection and education as the best method in controlling head lice.

Pediculosis (head lice) represents a common childhood condition, an acknowledged “problem” with raising and caring for children. Community involvement is very important, and families must actively participate at home in the treatment and prevention of head lice. The plan established by the Scott County Kids Health Committee is designed to be family friendly and sensitive to individual needs. Our goal is to support families and keep kids where they need to be...in school!

<p style="text-align: center;">The School’s Role in Head Lice Management (Adapted from the Harvard Scheme) http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice/flow.html</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parent/Caregiver Role in Head Lice Management (Adapted from the Harvard Scheme) http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice/flow2.html</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General classroom screening is not recommended • Children will be screened at school if lice are suspected or as a result of a reported case. (See Harvard Scheme) • The screening activities will be at the discretion of the trained health professional in the school, preferably a school nurse • Families will be notified by school personnel the same day their child has been identified with head lice • Other students will not be notified if there is one case in a classroom. Families will be notified if there are multiple cases of lice in a classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check children at home for head lice as needed • Check and treat household contacts • Notify others who have had close contact with the child in the past 2-3 weeks • Call the school to report head lice and/or nits found on a child • Contact your healthcare provider if two treatment regimens have failed and the child continues to have signs of head lice • Teach children not to share personal items • Follow the 14-Day Treatment brochure “Facts About Head Lice”
<p>Everyone’s Role - Know the Facts of Lice</p>	

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT LICE

1. What are head lice?

Head lice are small wingless insects about the size of a sesame seed. They feed on blood and live within the hairy scalp of the body. A head louse (only one insect) can lay up to ten eggs. The eggs are called nits. The nits can be seen along the hair shaft, normally within 1/2 inch from the scalp. They may appear light brown or gray but can vary in color. The most common areas are around the ears and along the nape of the neck.

2. Where do lice come from?

Head lice are insects that date back many centuries. They do not carry disease.

3. How does a person get head lice?

Lice can be spread during direct contact with a person who has lice. Sharing brushes, combs or hats can also spread lice. It is estimated that 95% of cases are spread through person-to-person contact while only 5% comes from indirect contact.

4. Can lice jump?

Lice do not have the ability to jump or to fly. They are active, fast crawling insects. Lice have three strong legs with powerful claws on each side to cling to the hair shaft.

5. What are the symptoms of head lice?

Often, the first sign is itching at the back of the head and around the ears. Not everyone will experience itching. If you notice your child repeatedly scratching his or her head, you should examine the head for nits or bugs.

6. How long does it take for a person to develop symptoms?

It can take up to 2-3 weeks for symptoms to appear. Some people may never develop symptoms.

7. Should I treat everyone in the family when my child has lice?

No. If you are using a lice shampoo, treat only those persons with confirmed head lice or nits.

8. Is it necessary to cut my child's hair in an effort to get rid of lice?

It is not recommended to cut the child's hair.

9. Do lice shampoos kill the insects and their eggs?

These products may kill some of the bugs, but do not kill nits.

10. Can I use pet shampoo?

Animal treatments are not safe or effective.

11. Do mayonnaise, oil or electronic combs really work in treating this problem?

Some people think these methods were effective in removing nits or bugs, but there is no current scientific evidence to support these practices

12. What will prevent my child from getting lice?

NOTHING! You cannot completely prevent your child from being affected by lice. You CAN instruct your child to avoid sharing personal items with others. Check your child's head periodically for signs of lice.

14 – DAY TREATMENT FOR HEAD LICE

(Iowa Department of Public Health)

FACTS ABOUT HEAD LICE

- **What does head lice look like?** Though very small, head lice can be seen by the human eye. They live in human hair, draw blood from the skin, and lay eggs (called nits) on the hair shaft. The nits may be found less than 1/2 inch from the scalp and most often on hair at the back of the head in the neck region. Children may complain of "feeling something crawling in their hair" or complain of an itchy head.
- **Is your child at risk?** Yes. Today, kids can be placed into two groups: Those with head lice and those at risk for getting head lice. Head lice will spread as long as children play together. They are found in all social classes and in all countries. Children in child care, preschools, grade or middle schools are at risk. Head lice are NOT a sign of being dirty.
- **What can you do?** Parents are the key to looking for and treating head lice! The Iowa Department of Public Health advises parents to spend 15 minutes each week on each child carefully looking for head lice or nits.
- **Additional tips:**
 1. Give each child his or her own comb or brush.
 2. Teach your child NOT to share hats, scarves, brushes, combs, and hair fasteners.
 3. Look for lice on all members of your household.

Treatment: The Iowa Department of Public Health recommends a 14-day treatment process. You may use over-the-counter products. They are safe and not costly. Mark your calendar to help you keep track of treatment.



- Write down the date you saw head lice _____
- On Day 1: Wash hair with over-the-counter medicated head-lice shampoo. **Read and follow all directions on the shampoo.**
- Days 2-7: Wash the hair using your regular shampoo. Rinse. Apply hair conditioner to make the hair slippery. **COMB** the hair the entire length from the scalp to end of hair. Wipe the comb between each stroke with a paper towel. Wiping the comb removes any lice or nits. Keep hair wet while combing. **COMB** hair at least 15-20 minutes. **COMB** all of hair.
- Day 8: Wash hair with over-the-counter medicated head-lice shampoo. **Read and follow all directions on the shampoo.**
- Days 9-14: Wash the hair using regular shampoo. Rinse. Apply hair conditioner to make the hair slippery. **COMB** the hair the entire length from the scalp to the end of hair. Wipe the comb between each stroke with a paper towel. Wiping the comb removes any lice or nits. Keep hair wet while combing. **COMB** hair at least 15-20 minutes. **COMB** all of hair.
- Use the calendar below to keep track of the treatment.

<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 Date _____ Use medicated shampoo	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 2 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 3 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 4 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 5 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 6 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 7 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 8 Use medicated shampoo	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 9 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 10 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 11 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 12 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 13 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB	<input type="checkbox"/> Day 14 Use regular shampoo, conditioner and COMB

REFERENCES

Center for Disease Control website for Lice:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice/factsht_head_lice.htm

Harvard School of Public Health Head Lice information:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>

Harvard School of Public Health Head Lice **Photos**

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice/photos.html>

Iowa Department of Public Health Fact Sheet for Head Lice

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/epi_manual/lice.pdf

Iowa Department of Public Health 14-Day Head Lice Treatment brochure

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/headlice_brochure.pdf

National Association of School Nurses Pediculosis Position Statement

<http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=237>