**HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Health Policy Statement:**

Head lice are considered a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. The management of head lice should not disrupt the educational process.

**Procedure:**

1. It is a parent’s responsibility to regularly check their child’s head for head lice.
2. The school nurse and/or designated persons will check for evidence of live lice and/or nit eggs when students have observable problems with their hair, i.e., itching, scaling, dry scalp, dandruff, etc.
3. Individual lice checks will occur in the health office or appropriate location maintaining student’s privacy.
4. If live lice and/or nit eggs are found, the student will be allowed to return to class but close head contact with other students will be discouraged. In severe cases of live infestation, the school district does maintain the right to send a child home.
5. An attempt will be made to contact a parent and orally review head lice treatment procedures; written treatment information (see attached) will be sent home with the student at the end of the day.
6. Students will be allowed to come to school the following day if appropriate treatment has begun.
7. At the discretion of the school nurse, notices may be sent home with all of the students in the identified student’s classroom to advise them to check for lice and nits in their child’s hair.
8. Confidentiality is essential. Only the parent or emergency contact will be notified. It is the parent’s responsibility to notify daycare providers, relatives, and/or friends.
9. After treatment, the student may be rechecked in 7-14 days at the discretion of the school nurse. The parent will be contacted and instructions for treatment will be reviewed.
10. If treatment has been unsuccessful and/or if the family needs additional education and guidance, a referral will be made to Public Health.

**HEAD LICE TREATMENT GUIDELINES**

1. When anyone in the family has lice, check all other members of the family carefully. Treat anyone with nits or lice in the hair.
2. Use any over the county lice product (A-200 Lice Killing Shampoo, Nix Crème Rinse, Rid Lice Killing Shampoo, Pronto Lice Treatment) or a prescribed shampoo from your doctor. Follow the instruction exactly, including using the recommended amount of solution. A second treatment is recommended in 7-10 days.
3. Lindane containing products can be very toxic, especially to young children. It penetrates human skin and has a potential for central nervous system toxicity. They are only prescribed under special circumstances and a doctor’s visit may be required.
4. The most important step is manual removal of lice and nits. This takes hours, but it is the key to success. There is some resistance to lice killing shampoo so removing all nits is essential. Rinsing the hair in a solution of vinegar and water (50:50) helps to loosen the nits. Remove all nits with your fingernails or a louse comb such as the Lice Meister. Continue to check head daily for at least two weeks.
5. Vacuum all surfaces. Wash all bedding in hot water and dry in a hot dryer. Any potentially contaminated objects that can’t be washed (stuffed animals, etc.) can be secured in a plastic bag for 2 weeks. Vacuum the car and car seats. Brushes and combs must also be cleaned.
6. Other alternative methods are available, however are not encouraged as first line treatment.
7. Lice on the eyelashes and eyebrows should be treated with Vaseline applied gently three times a day for 5 days.
8. Contact your local public health department or medical provider if you need additional resources.

Stearns County Public Health: (320) 203-6942

Kandiyohi County Public Health: (320) 231-7800

Pope County Public Health: (320) 634-5729

Additional Online Resources:

Centers for Disease Control:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>

National Pediculosis Association:

<http://www.headlice.org/>

Minnesota Department of Health: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/headlice/index.html>

Mayo Clinic:

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/head-lice/basics/definition/con-20030792>