

**Policy**

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HEAD LICE

Consistent with the position of the New Jersey Department of Health, National Association of School Nurses and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Alloway Township School District believes that the management of pediculosis (infestation by head lice) should not disrupt the educational process. No disease is associated with head lice, and in-school transmission is considered to be rare.

"No nit" policies requiring that students be free of nits before they return to school have not been effective in controlling transmission and are not recommended.

The certified school nurse, as a student advocate and nursing expert, shall be included in school district-community planning, implementation and evaluation of vector control programs for the school setting. The school nurse shall facilitate an accurate assessment of the problem, contain infestation, provide appropriate health information for treatment and prevention, prevent overexposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absence.

In cases that involve head lice, as in all school health issues, it is imperative that the school district and its employees prevent stigmatizing and maintain the student's privacy as well as the family's right to confidentiality.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. Head lice: small parasitic insects that live on the scalp and neck of a human host;
- B. Louse: singular of lice;
- C. Nymph: young, recently hatched louse;
- D. Active infestation: finding a live louse or nymph on the scalp, or a viable nit within 1 cm of the scalp;
- E. Pediculosis: an active infestation of head lice;
- F. Nit: an egg of a female louse, attached to the hair shaft;
- G. Non-viable nit: an egg found on the hair shaft farther than 1 cm from the scalp; already hatched;
- H. Viable nit: an egg found on a hair shaft closer than 1 cm from the scalp; considered to be unhatched;
- I. Ovicide: chemical which kills eggs/nits;
- J. Pediculicide: chemical which kills nymph stage and adult lice.

Regulations/Procedure

Any student suspected of having an active infestation will be referred to the school nurse for evaluation.

A student, with head lice or viable nits visualized by the school nurse, shall be referred for treatment at the end of the school day. Prompt treatment at home shall be advised, including removal of live lice and all viable nits. Immediate removal from school is not recommended.

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District-approved written information about the identification and management of active head lice infestation will be provided by the school nurse to the parent/guardian of the affected student.

At the discretion of the school nurse, it may be appropriate to screen other children who have had close head to head contact with the student with active infestation, such as household family members, but classroom-wide or schoolwide screening is not generally indicated.

Students with nits only, shall not be excluded from school. A student with nonviable nits will be monitored, not be referred for treatment and may remain in school.

Upon return to school after treatment, the student will be reassessed for the presence of head lice/nits by the school nurse. If live lice are again visualized, the school nurse will contact the parent/guardian and reinforce the need for prompt treatment at home. The student may be permitted to return to the classroom.

If upon reassessment by the school nurse, nits are found, either at the time of the initial or return assessment, the student will be assessed at weekly intervals or more frequently at the discretion of the school nurse.

The school nurse is authorized, in consultation with school administrator(s), to exclude a student with repeated infestations of live lice or viable nits, or a student with a current infestation for which there is inadequate management by the parent/guardian. This student may be referred to his/her healthcare provider and/or the Salem County Health Department for additional intervention(s).

A copy of this policy and the New Jersey Department of Health Head Lice fact sheet shall be provided to parents/guardians at time of school registration and annually thereafter.

A copy of this policy and the New Jersey Department of Health Head Lice fact sheet shall be provided to district employees at time of hire and may be reviewed as needed.

Adopted:

Revised;

NJSBA Review/Update: April 2025

Readopted:

Key Words

Lice, Head Lice, Nits, Eggs, Pediculosis, Nurse,

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| <b><u>Legal References:</u></b> | <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3</u>         | Lectures to teachers  |
|                                 | <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:48-7 et seq.</u> | Exclusion of students who are ill   |
|                                 | <u>N.J.S.A. 18A:40-8</u>         | Exclusion of students whose presence is detrimental to health and cleanliness           |
|                                 | <u>N.J.S.A. 26:4-4</u>           | Notice to local board to control disease; proceeding to compel action                   |
|                                 | <u>N.J.S.A. 26:4-6</u>           | Prohibiting attendance of teachers or students  |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:1.1 et seq.</u>   | Bylaw for the State Board of Education  |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C. 6A:2.1 et seq.</u>   | Commissioner  |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C. 8:52-7 et seq.</u>   | Public health nursing   |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.3</u>         | Reportable diseases   |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.6</u>         | Reporting positive laboratory tests denoting diseases                                   |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C. 8:57-2.1 et seq.</u> | Applicability; definition of AIDS, HIV infection, perinatal HIV exposure, and CD4 count |
|                                 | <u>N.J.A.C. 8:61-1.1</u>         | HIV services and definitions  |

[www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/SCRATCHHeadLiceResources](http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/SCRATCHHeadLiceResources)

HEAD LICE (continued)**Possible**

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| <b><u>Cross References:</u></b> | *3516        | Safety   |
|                                 | *3542        | Food service   |
|                                 | *4112.4      | Employee health  |
|                                 | *4131/4131.1 | Staff development; inservice education/visitations/conferences |
|                                 | 4151.2       | Family illness/quarantine                                      |
|                                 | *4212.4      | Employee health  |
|                                 | 4251.2       | Family illness/quarantine                                      |
|                                 | *5111        | Admission  |
|                                 | *5125        | Student records  |
|                                 | *5141        | Health   |
|                                 | *5141.1      | Accidents  |
|                                 | *5141.2      | Illness  |
|                                 | *5141.3      | Health examinations and immunizations                          |
|                                 | *5141.4      | Child abuse and neglect  |
|                                 | *5141.21     | Administering medication                                       |
|                                 | *5142        | Student safety   |
|                                 | *5200        | Nonpublic school students                                      |
|                                 | *6142.4      | Physical education and health                                  |

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.