

## **Guidelines for Pediculosis (Head Lice) for Hartselle City Schools**

### **Goals:**

1. To identify infested students and to provide information to students and parents regarding appropriate treatment of the head lice.
2. To decrease school absences for students.
3. To decrease the instances of repeat infestations.
4. To educate students, parents and school staff and how to prevent infestations in the school setting.

### **Procedures and Protocols:**

1. If a student is reported to have head lice or symptoms of head lice, the School Nurse will examine the student to determine if there is an active infestation. An active infestation is live lice or viable nits; nits that are less than one-quarter inch from the scalp. (Due to the rate of hair growth, nits that are farther away from the scalp will not hatch or have already hatched.)
2. If the School Nurse determines that there is an active infestation the student's parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be picked up from school for immediate treatment.
3. If there are other students in the school system that live in the same house with the infested student, the School Nurse will call the appropriate personnel at the other schools to let them be aware of the infestation. Parents should examine other members of the family and all close contacts should be notified.
4. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make arrangements with the School Nurse for the student to be examined before re-entry into school. The parent must accompany the child to school for this examination so that the School Nurse can check for the presence of live lice or viable nits, review treatment of the infestation and to provide any additional instructions and support. There will be a follow-up re-check of the student at least once within ten days from treatment by the School Nurse if deemed necessary.
5. One (1) day will be allowed as an excused absence for the purpose of treatment. Additional time out of school will be considered unexcused due to parental/guardian non-compliance and referred to the principal for follow-up. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to treat promptly and return the child to school the next day.
6. Chronic or repeated head lice infestations should be referred to the School Health Coordinator for consultation. In the case of repeated head lice infestations the child may be excluded from school as long as the case is active and until effective treatment has been provided.
7. The School Nurse will provide educational materials and resources to parents/guardians, students and to school staff regarding head lice infestations, management and treatment as needed.
8. Parents are responsible for obtaining any supplies and treatment for head lice. The school nurse or guidance counselor should be notified if the parent/guardian cannot afford to pay for the shampoo/treatment. The parents should contact their health care provider with concerns about treatment.
9. Confidentiality of any child identified with head lice will be a major consideration. Extreme care to avoid embarrassment to any student will be a primary concern of the nurse and faculty.
10. If a case of head lice is confirmed, the school nurse may conduct other individual head checks, as she deems necessary, including entire classroom and grade level, if appropriate.

