

NEW PRAGUE AREA SCHOOLS
Health Services
Head Lice Procedure

- I. Effective Date:** **November 8, 2010**
- II. Purpose:** To prevent the spread of head lice in the school setting.
To provide guidance for implementation of a “No Head Lice”
policy.
To ensure accurate information is shared with staff and parents
To follow Evidence – Based Best Practice standards
- III. Scope:** Licensed School Nurse
Licensed Health Assistants
- IV. Reference:** Harvard School of Public Health – Head lice management
NASN – Scratch program
A Guide to Head Lice Treatment and Prevention, Washington
County Public Health and Environment Department.
Infectious Diseases in Child Care Settings, 6th Ed, June 2008
Hennepin County Community Health Department
- V. Procedure:** 1.If a positive case of head lice is determined:
 Licensed Health Assistant:
- Send student home for proper treatment (see below).
Send home resources from NASN and WCPH.
 - Inform parent/guardian that all lice and most nits
must be removed prior to student’s return to school.
Student can come back to school once treated, which
should be the next day.
 - Notify lead custodian for building, inform custodian
of classroom affected in order for room to be
vacuumed that evening. Nurse to observe the room
for any objects that may need to be washed/bagged.
2. Any siblings of the identified student with head lice will also
be examined by health services staff, including siblings in other
buildings.
3. Upon returning to school the student will have a head check on
two occasions at a minimum. The parents should accompany
their child on the day of return after diagnosis and be checked with
the building nurse before the child is allowed to go to class. The
student must be head-lice free when returning to school and have
significantly improved, in regards to the amount of nits, from last
head check. The LSN and Building Nurse will determine together
how often the child should be checked and if the treatment was

successful. The student will be checked for head lice and nits according to the plan below:

- The day the student returns to school after treatment (#1)
 - Between days 7-10 (#2)
4. When checking the student's head after treatment, make sure there are minimal (amount of nits). If the student has numerous nits then call the parent/guardian and inform them that they must comb the nits out. Then proceed with the checks according to the above schedule.
5. **Classroom precautions:** If there is a positive case of head lice in a classroom, the following precautions will be done the same day:
- Any carpet or cushioned couches/chairs must be vacuumed.
 - Any stuffed animals, pillows, dress-up clothes, and hats must be placed in plastic garbage bags for a two-week period.
 - Building nurse will inspect the classroom to ensure that items are not posing a risk of exposure.
 - Classroom letter- This letter will be sent home to parents 3 times throughout the school year in K-5 buildings, once at the beginning of the year, once before Christmas break and once before Spring Break. Letters will no longer be sent to classrooms each time a new case of lice is detected, unless deemed necessary by LSN and Building nurse.
 - Classroom inspections will not be preformed unless deemed necessary by LSN and Building Nurse.
6. **Resources:** Health services have a variety of resources available for parents/guardians/teachers/other interested persons. These include:
- Handout A Guide to Head Lice Treatment and Prevention, Washington County Public Health
 - American Academy of Pediatrics
 - Infectious Diseases in Child Care Settings, 6th Ed, June 2008 Hennepin County Community Health Department.
 - Websites:
 - www.nasn.org
 - www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html
 - www.cdc.gov