

POLICY

FLEMINGTON-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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8454 MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a healthful learning environment for all children in the school district. One way to maintain this healthful learning environment is to manage pediculosis, a condition of a person having head lice. Head lice are very small insects that have claws that cling to hair and spend their entire life cycle on the heads of people. Head lice do not spread any diseases and having head lice is not prevented by personal or household cleanliness, use of shampoos, or length of hair. All social and economic groups can be affected by head lice. Because it is very difficult to totally prevent head lice infestations in schools where children come into close head-to-head contact with each other frequently, the Board of Education will take appropriate steps to manage pediculosis by way of this policy.

The Board recognizes parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice and the school staff members will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families in managing pediculosis. Each school in the district will send home to parents in the beginning of the school year an overview of the district's Management of Pediculosis Policy. The District's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet will be published on the district's website, and will be provided to parents upon request. The Information Packet will include information about identifying, treating, and managing pediculosis. In addition, each school will provide the parent an opportunity to inform the school nurse if they do not want their child's scalp checked by the school nurse if another student in their child's class or on their team has active head lice. The school nurse will inform the parent their child's classmate and/or teammate has active head lice, but will not perform a head check of a student if the parent informs the school nurse they do not want their child's scalp checked by the school nurse.

A student who is found to have active head lice will not be permitted to attend school until there are no active lice in the student's hair and until all live head lice are removed as confirmed by an examination by the school nurse. The presence of nits, the eggs of lice, alone will not prohibit a child from attending school.

The presence of active head lice in the student population will be determined and investigated as follows:

1. Grades Kindergarten through Four – The school nurse will perform head checks of all students in a classroom where there are three or more active head lice cases in the same classroom within a two week period.



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2. Grades Five through Eight – The school nurse will perform head checks of all students in a classroom or on a specific team where there are three or more active head lice cases in the same classroom or ten or more active head lice cases in the same team within a two week period.
3. Grades Kindergarten through Eight - When a case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, the school nurse shall perform a head check of any of the infested student's siblings in the school. If a sibling(s) attends a different school in the district, the school nurse in the sibling's school will be notified and the school nurse will conduct a head check of the sibling(s). In addition, anytime the school nurse has identified active head lice, the school nurse will conduct a head check of other students in the school who are most likely to have had head-to-head contact with the infested child. These other students to be checked shall be identified by the school nurse in consultation with the school administration.

Parental Notification

If the school nurse determines a student has active head lice, the parent shall be notified by the school nurse as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than the end of the school day. The parent will be provided a copy of this Policy and the district's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet. The school nurse will advise the parent that prompt treatment of head lice is in the best interest of their child. The school nurse will determine to send the child home or have the child remain at school for the remainder of the school day based on the comfort of the child, the degree of the infestation, and the likelihood of the spread of head lice to other students. If it is determined by the school nurse that the student may remain in school for the remainder of the school day and if the child goes to an aftercare program, the aftercare facility's Pediculosis Policy should be considered.

In addition,

1. Grades Kindergarten through Four – When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of all children in a class will be notified. The Principal will send home with the students a Head Lice Alert Notice, the Board's Policy, the District's Management of Pediculosis Information Packet. This information will clearly notify parents that treatment should only be performed on their child if active head lice are found in their child's scalp and treatment should never be applied as a preventative measure. This notification will inform parents they are expected to notify the school nurse if they find active head lice or nits in their



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child's scalp. The school nurse will perform a head check of a student if requested by the parent.

2. Grades Five through Eight – When a single case of active head lice has been identified by the school nurse, parents of children in a class or on a team may be sent a Head Lice Alert Notice at the discretion of the school nurse and/or administration. These parents may request additional information regarding head lice from the school nurse. The school nurse will perform a head check of a student if requested by the parent.

A student excluded from school for pediculosis shall be re-admitted only upon the examination and approval of the school nurse. The examination for re-admittance to school by the school nurse should be, but is not required to be, in the presence of the student's parent. The student will be re-admitted to school only when there is no evidence of active head lice. The student will be re-admitted to school with nits if evidence is provided to the school nurse that the student received treatment and/or re-treatment, as appropriate.

All school staff members will maintain a sympathetic attitude and will not stigmatize and/or blame families who experience difficulty with control measures. All school staff members will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community regarding issues of head lice. Each school in the district will educate and encourage children and parents to learn about head lice in an attempt to remove any stigma or to prevent any harassment, intimidation, and bullying associated with this issue. Any instances of harassment, intimidation, and bullying shall be reported and investigated in accordance with the provisions of the district's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy.

Cases of active head lice will be recorded by the school nurse in each school for the purpose of tracking incident rates and mandatory reporting of outbreaks will be done according to the New Jersey Department of Health criteria for reporting outbreaks.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee will oversee the development of any additional procedures for the implementation of this Policy.

Introduced: April 29, 2014

Adopted: May 19, 2014

