



## **Head Lice Guidelines for Haverhill Public Schools**

Haverhill's school's practices regarding head lice will be guided primarily from the most current version (2010) of the Clinical Report on Head Lice from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Given that there is much confusion and conflicting information about head lice, which can increase the amount of anxiety and frustration, school health personnel should be as consistent as possible when advising students, families and staff.

The recommended treatment of head lice by the Haverhill Public Schools is permethrin crème rinse (brand name, Nix). Efforts will be made to ensure that families can access proper treatment, regardless of cost.

Three modes of head lice education will be provided by school nurses:

1. School nurses will proactively communicate about general head lice prevention with students, parents/guardians and staff through newsletters, websites, back-to-school nights, etc. and will monitor their schools' prevention strategies.
2. Students with head lice will be given a standardized educational handout, instructing families on treating the infestation. School nurses will be available to instruct parents/guardians on lice treatment and will inspect recently infested students regularly to ensure eradication.
3. Families may receive notification to monitor their students closely, when appropriate (e.g. when two or more cases of active head lice are discovered in the same classroom). Confidentiality will be maintained regarding individuals with head lice.

School nurses will discuss recurring cases of head lice with the building principal and nursing supervisor to ensure home compliance with the treatment recommendations or referral to the child's doctor for stronger medicine.

Although school nurses will not routinely inspect asymptomatic children or classrooms – screening for lice – school nurses will monitor their schools' compliance with lice prevention strategies and will use their professional judgment to proactively address head lice infestation to avoid spread within the school environment. Each reported case of head lice will be recorded, and head lice infestations will be monitored by the school nurse, nursing supervisor and school physician.

Students will be allowed to attend school, even if nits are still present. Nits cannot be spread to others however nit removal is recommended. It is important for each student not to miss class time unnecessarily.

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