

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Mason County Schools attendance policy regarding contagious parasite diseases, such as lice is as follows:

“A child with lice or other parasite diseases shall be excused from school not to exceed two (2) days per incident. “Beyond two (2) days, if the child does not return nit free, the absence will be unexcused.

Any questions pertaining to this policy should be directed to the School Principal or the Attendance Director.

For Further Information:

Mason County School Health Services

(304) 675-6042

Mason County Health Department

(304) 675-3050

Center for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov

MASON COUNTY SCHOOLS

HEAD LICE INFORMATION

Head lice (Pediculosis capitis) continues to be a problem in our community. Lice are highly communicable and difficult to prevent. If every parent will take responsibility to check the entire family often, these parasites can be controlled. This is often a frustrating problem to deal with, but the following information should help you to identify and treat head lice safely and thoroughly.



Mason County Schools

HOW DO YOU GET HEAD LICE?

Many people associate lice with unclean people or homes. This is not true in the case of head lice. Frequent bathing or shampooing will not prevent lice nor eliminate them once they are established. Lice cannot jump or fly and are usually transmitted by contact with infested persons or wearing infested clothing or using infested combs or brushes. Children should therefore be warned against sharing hats, clothing or grooming aids with others. Household pets do not transmit lice.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Lice are small insects about the size of a sesame seed. They are usually brown but can vary in color. They move quickly and shy away from light; making them difficult to see. Diagnosis is more often made on the basis of finding nit (eggs). Nits are tiny yellowish-white oval specks that are firmly attached to the hair shaft. Viable (live) nits may be found at any distance from the scalp. As she deposits her eggs (three or four times a day) the female louse cements them to the hair. Unlike lint or dandruff, they will not wash off or blow away. Nits may be found throughout the hair, but are most often located at the nape of the neck, behind the ears, and frequently on the crown.

TREATMENT

Before one family member is treated, all should be examined. Everyone showing evidence of infestation should be treated at the same time.

Individual treatment is a TWO-STEP PROCESS involving the use of a pediculicidal product and a combing tool manufactured for the purpose of nit removal.

Process as follows:

1. Remove child's shirt and provide a towel to cover the eyes. (This is essential) **DO NOT TREAT IN THE BATHTUB OR SHOWER**, but have the child lean over a sink.
2. Use one of several louse remedies available at you pharmacy. Some are available by prescription, some over-the-counter. All these products must be used carefully, observing all safety guidelines.
3. ALTHOUGH IT CAN TAKE TIME AND SOMETIMES BE DIFFICULT, REMOVE ALL NITS to insure complete treatment. Louse products do not kill all the nits, and survivors will hatch into crawling lice within 7 to 10 days, generating a cycle of self-reinfestation.
4. Following nit removal, have the child put on clean clothing.
5. A DAILY NIT CHECK is advisable for at least 10 days following treatment and then checking should become part of routine home hygiene. You may have to retreat in 7 to 10 days if there is evidence of NEW nits or newly-hatched lice.

TREATMENT OF PERSONAL ARTICLES

1. Machine wash all articles of clothing and bed linens that have been in contact with the infested person during the last 10 days. Articles should be washed in HOT WATER and dried in a HOT DRYER for at least 20 minutes. Non washables can be vacuumed, dry cleaned, or sealed up in a plastic bag for 2 weeks.
2. Soak combs and brushes for 1 day in 2% Lysol solution or pediculicide.
3. If clothing worn by the person with lice is stored with other clothing. All clothing must be treated by one of the above methods.

HOME DISINFECTION

1. Thoroughly vacuum mattress,
2. Damp wipe all surfaces to remove loose hair that may have attached nits. Dispose of cleaning cloth.
3. Fumigation or spaying have NOT been found more effective than vacuuming and raise the potential of needless insecticide exposure.

REPORTING CASES

Don't be embarrassed to notify your child's school so other parents can be alerted to a possible outbreak. Also, notify your child's playmate's parents.