



Pediculosis/Head Lice Guidelines

The subject of head lice is not a popular one, but their presence affects millions each year. Despite their negative association, lice can afflict anyone. It is important to know that head lice are not a health hazard, nor are they a sign of uncleanliness, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease.

If head lice are detected please follow the instructions below:

1. Notify the school nurse, Diane Sneider, via phone 617-912-1302 or email- dsneider@winsor.edu.
2. If a case of lice is discovered while the student is at school then the student's parents will be notified and the student must go home to have their head treated.
3. If a case of head lice is detected at home the parents need to notify the school nurse and administer a head lice treatment prior to returning to school.
4. Once a treatment has been given the student may return to school. A student can be in school with nits.
5. Any student who is being treated at home for head lice will need to see the nurse daily until the second treatment has been given and all nits are removed.
6. Please remind your children not to share hats, clothing, brushes, pillows and other personal articles as they are perfect vehicles to transfer lice from one person to another. **Sleepovers are a popular way that lice are spread.**

Treatment

- Treat hair with a lice killing product or alternative treatment. Please check with your doctor or pharmacist for a specific product to use for your child.
- Thoroughly comb the hair with a nit removal comb, available at any pharmacy. Removal of nits is important to avoid reinfestation. There are no products that kill the nits. They must be manually removed by hand or with a nit removal comb.
- Due to the life cycle of louse/lice, you need to retreat with a lice killing product or alternative treatment for a second time approximately 6-7 days after the initial treatment. **Not following through with this step could lead to a second round of hatching lice.**
- Concentrating on removal of the eggs (nits) from your child's scalp is most important, as lice cannot survive off the human head for longer than 24 hours.

Resources

1. For a visual guide of head lice resource: <http://www.healthline.com/health-slideshow/what-do-head-lice-look-like#promoSlide>
2. There are resources for head lice on the Student Health page of the Winsor Website.
3. For a link to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Head Lice use this link: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/g-i/head-lice.pdf>

Professional services that offer assistance with head lice treatment are:

Note: Information on lice removal services is provided as a resource only and is not specifically recommended by the Health Office or by The Winsor School.

NitWits LLC- 617-816-9487, www.liceinfo.net

LiceTreatmentCenter- Tel: 888-542-3292

Lice Aunties: appointments in Newton, MA. Tel: 617-901-0620

Closenitfamily - Tel: 781-741-5423, closenitfamily.com

Per the National Association of School Nurses, "It may be appropriate to screen the other children who have had close head-to-head contact with a student with an active infestation, such as household family members, but classroom-wide or school-wide screening is not merited (Andersen & McCarthy, 2009)." The Harvard School of Public Health, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses and the CDC no longer recommend classroom wide screenings.

Please call or email me if you treat your daughter for head lice, or if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Diane Sneider MEd,BSN,RN

Director of Health Services

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