

MORRISONVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Administrative Procedures for Head Lice

School's Responsibility and Actions

- ◆ Classes may be checked for head lice upon administrative request.
- ◆ If lice or nits (eggs) are found on a child, the following steps will be taken:
 1. The child's classroom is checked.
 2. All brothers/sisters are checked.
 3. Parents of the infested children are contacted.
 4. **All students having lice or nits are sent home.**
 5. Parents are given information and procedures to follow.
 6. Students/parents may be questioned about sleepovers, etc. in order to ascertain the scope of the infestation.
- ◆ If other students in the classroom are found to be infested, a note will be sent home with every student in the class.
- ◆ Coats, hats, etc. will be placed in plastic bags in the classroom until further notice.
- ◆ Day care facilities of infested children will be contacted.

Procedures to Re-enter School

1. Infested students must be treated.
2. The empty bottle must be brought in to the school to verify treatment.
3. A parent must accompany the child to school between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. the child may NOT take the bus.
4. The student will be checked in the presence of the parent.
 - ◆ The student must have been treated.
 - ◆ The student must be nit free.
 - ◆ If the student is lice/nit free, he/she may return to class.
 - ◆ If the student is not lice/nit free, he/she will be returned home with the parent/guardian.
5. Any student who has been sent home for lice/nit infestation will be rechecked three (3) to seven (7) days after their return.
 - ◆ If the student is still lice/nit free, he/she may return to class.
 - ◆ If the student is not lice/nit free, the parents will be contacted, and the procedures listed above will again be followed.
6. A parent must again accompany the child to school between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. the child may NOT take the bus.
7. Students who miss more than two (2) days of school for this problem may be contacted as truant, and they can be referred to the Christian County Regional Office of Education as truants. Parents of truants or chronic truants may be subject to fines according to the Illinois School Code, revised edition.

The most critical factor in this situation is the personal responsibility of the parent/guardian. Children cannot correct this problem alone.

Parent's Responsibility and Actions

- ◆ Head lice are a nuisance, neither a disease nor life threatening.
- ◆ Do not be embarrassed by this infection. Stigma or social concerns attached to this issue are the result of ignorance. Children and their families should not be blamed or ridiculed.
- ◆ **Immediate action is necessary. Left uncontrolled, this problem can last for days/weeks.** Adults must take responsible corrective action. Children cannot treat themselves. **Treat all infested children, and check all family members-even adults.**
- ◆ Your pharmacy, county health department, or local physician can provide information to assist with this problem. With proper assistance, this problem can be treated and things can return to normal in a short time.
- ◆ Treatment with regular shampoo and/or combing will **not** help. Treatment with appropriate shampoo specifically formulated to get rid of lice is necessary.
- ◆ Combing the hair after shampooing requires the special hard metal closed-toothed comb, and small amounts of hair can only be combed at a time. If the comb does not remove all the nits (eggs), it may be necessary to remove some of the nits at a time with your fingers.
- ◆ **Nits (eggs) will not be 100% killed with shampooing. All of the nits must be removed, or the child may become re-infested.**
- ◆ In less than seven (7) days, a live louse may hatch from an unremoved nit.
- ◆ Persons with head lice **must be retreated** with the appropriate shampoo as directed on the package or by a physician.
- ◆ Re-check your child frequently once they have become infested.
- ◆ Check your child if another student in the class has been infested, they have been with someone who has been infested or a note from school has been sent home.
- ◆ **Inform the school anytime that your child has been found to have lice/nits.**
- ◆ **Clothes, hats, bedding, and anything that has been in contact must be cleaned.**
- ◆ **Sofas, carpeting and upholstery must be vacuumed.**
- ◆ Products are available from the pharmacy that may assist with cleaning.
- ◆ If your child attends a Day Care facility, notify them and the school, when a case of lice has been reported. All parties involved must take personal responsibility to assist in notification and assistance to parents and students.

Sources of assistance:

Christian County Health Department will sell a cream rinse that is effective for \$2.00 per bottle.

Over-the-counter RID and CLEAR Lice Egg Remover is also very effective.

If using a prescribed treatment from a physician, be sure to ask about the risks and side effects.