

810: Pediculosis (Lice) Policy

I. Purpose:

- a. The purpose of this policy is to describe the expectations Providence Creek Academy (PCA) will follow for the screening and treatment of pediculosis (lice) for students and/or staff in order to prevent further spread and infestation to other campus community members' **AND** to maintain attendance as to lessen the interruption of the educational process within reason.

II. Definitions:

- a. Active infestation: finding a live louse or nymph on the scalp or a viable egg within 1 cm of the scalp
- b. Nonviable egg: an egg found on the hair shaft more than 1 cm away from scalp
- c. Head lice: small parasitic insects that live on the scalp, hair shaft and neck of the human host
- d. Nymph: young, recently hatched louse
- e. Pediculicide: chemical which kills nymph stage and adult lice
- f. Ovacide: chemical which kills lice eggs and nits
- g. Nits: eggs of lice attached to hair shaft
- h. Louse: singular form of lice
- i. Pediculosis: having a condition of infection from lice

III. Policy Statement:

- a. The presence of lice does not indicate poor hygiene or sanitation of the home and/or school. Lice cannot fly or jump. They are species specific so they do not transmit from animal to humans. A nymph louse hatches from its egg approximately 8 days after development. It will then feed, grow and develop into the adult stage 9-12 days after hatching. A female louse can lay about 6 eggs/day. A fully grown adult is about the size of a sesame seed and can live up to 30 days if there is consistent blood supply to feed on. If no live nymphs or adult lice are seen and the only nits found care are ¼ inch or more from the scalp, the infestation is most likely old and no longer considered active (CDC, September 17, 2020).
- b. Treatment of lice should only be considered when live or viable eggs are noted upon exam. Random mass screenings without cause are neither effective nor necessary and should be discouraged. Most transmission occurs in the household. The risk for school transmission is low. There is no data to support exclusion policies and no-nit policies are effective in reducing transmission (CDC, 2015). The position of both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) *and* the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) position on exclusion is that it should be discontinued as it creates an unnecessary burden of absenteeism for

families, misdiagnosis by non-healthcare providers and most likely nits are cemented to the hair shaft causing transmission risk to be almost non-existent (CDC, 2015).

IV. Responsibility:

- a. It is important to recognize that in-home transmission and not school-based transmission is the biggest factor for infestation. PCA's policy is to screen siblings of the infested individual. Mass or classroom screening may or may not be performed when a single case is reported in a classroom.
- b. It will be up to the nurse's discretion whether a mass screening should occur. The school nurse may decide to screen a classroom if more than one infestation is reported. The nurse may also screen at the parent's request. If deemed necessary, the school nurse will communicate with the parents/guardians of the students' in the classroom with positive lice exposure, based on nursing judgement.
- c. Should screening be necessary, PCA has the right to exclude students based on the following factors:
 - A. Nurse will screen symptomatic students *and* staff
 - a. Screening will take place in the Nurse's Office at all times
 - i. If no live lice or nits, student will be returned to classroom
 - ii. Nits or active lice present, student will remain with nurse and parent contact will be made
 1. It will be highly suggested to contact the families healthcare provider for over the counter treatment
 2. Nurse will communicate with families from the classroom if deemed necessary based on nursing judgement
 - iii. Student **MUST** be assessed by school nurse after treatment prior to returning to classroom

V. Related Policies:

- a. Providence Creek Academy's Attendance and Truancy Policy
 - i. <http://www.pcasaints.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/213-Truancy-Policy.pdf>
- b. Providence Creek Academy's Wellness Policy
 - i. <http://www.pcasaints.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Wellness-Policy.pdf>

c. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

- i. <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

VI. Related Procedures and Documents:

- A. <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/head-lice.html?ref=search>
- B. <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-head-lice>
- C. <https://regulations.delaware.gov/register/august2018/proposed/22%20DE%20Reg%20132%2008-01-18.pdf>

Approval and Revision Dates:

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 23, 2021