

# Southeast Fountain School Corporation

## Head Lice Policy

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Subject: Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Purpose:

To describe the policy for:

- Managing the student or staff member with pediculosis in order to prevent the infestation of other children or staff members,
- Maintaining school attendance as well as minimizing the disruption of the learning process to the greatest extent possible,
- Preserving the privacy and confidentiality of staff and students

Definitions:

**Pediculosis (Head Lice)** - small parasitic insects that live on the scalp and neck of the human host.

**Louse-** singular of lice

**Nymph-** young, recently hatched louse

**Active infestation-** finding a live louse or nymph on the scalp, or a viable nit within 1cm of the scalp

**Nit-** an egg of a female louse, attached to the hair shaft

**Non-viable nit-** an egg found on a hair shaft FARTHER than 1cm from the scalp, already hatched

**Viable Nit-** an egg found on a hair shaft CLOSER than 1cm from the scalp, considered to be unhatched.

Policy:

In compliance with the current positions of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American School Health Association, Centers for Disease Control, and the National Association of School Nurses; Fountain Central School Corporation will practice the following to control pediculosis infestation among students and staff:

- Persons with live head lice OR viable nits, visualized by the school nurse or other trained designee, will be referred for treatment at the end of the school day. Prompt treatment at home will be advised, including removal of live lice and all viable nits. Immediate removal of the infested person from school is unnecessary. If the person has lice, he or she has probably have been infested for weeks and prompt removal of the person could lead to embarrassment and ridicule.

- Recommendations for treatment will follow current standards of evidenced-based practice as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Following treatment, the person will be rechecked before returning to the classroom. A parent/guardian must bring the student to school to be rechecked by the school nurse. If no live lice or viable nits are found, the person may be readmitted to school.
- If ANY nits are found, either at the time of the initial check or the return check, the person will be rechecked in one week or at the discretion of the School Nurse after her individualized assessment of the person.
- Persons with NON-Viable nits will be monitored and NOT referred for treatment and may remain at school.
- Siblings and other persons, at the school nurse's discretion, who are felt to be in close contact with a person with live lice, will be inspected for infestation and referred as appropriate.
- The school Nurse retains the authorization to, at her discretion; exclude a child with repeated infestations of lice or viable nits, or a child with current active infestation for which there is an apparent lack of adequate follow through by parents or guardians.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013) Parasites-Lice-Head Lice. Atlanta, GA  
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/>

National Association of School Nurses (2011), Pediculosis in the School Setting. Position Statement.  
<http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsFullView/tabid/462/ArticleId/40/Pediculosis-Management-in-the-School-Setting-Revised-2011>

Pollack, R (2009) Head Lice Information. Statement from Harvard School of Public Health  
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics (2010), AAP Offers Update Guidance on Treating Head Lice  
<http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/AAP-Offers-Updated-Guidance-on-Treating-Head-Lice>