

## Beech Hill School

### Head Lice Procedures

These steps will be taken to raise awareness and prevent the spread of head lice at the Beech Hill School.

1. Twice a year, informational materials will be distributed to families regarding head lice management. This includes preventative and treatment measures.
2. Staff members may also conduct class checks throughout the whole school at times (preferably at the beginning of the year, when head lice are found on one or few students, sports seasons, after holiday breaks, etc.).
3. When a staff member notices or a child reports an “itchy” head, a staff member will check that child’s head in a private setting.
4. Parents are requested to pick up their child if s/he has an active infestation or a moderate amount of viable nits (about 5 or more) are found. Students are considered to have an “active” lice infestation when live bug(s) are present. Viable nits (which are not dead or hatched) are darker in color and appear closer to the scalp.
5. If head lice or several nits are found, upon calling the parent, it is recommended that the family administer a treatment (See #4) by the day’s end of being notified. The earlier the treatment, the better chances families have of managing an infestation.
6. In an effort to reduce attendance issues and academic impact, a child may be dismissed after lunch for treatment purposes.
7. The family should administer a treatment which includes:
  - a. Thoroughly picking all forms of lice from the student’s head;
  - b. Wash all bedding in hot water and drying at a high heat setting;
  - c. Washing all clothing items including pajamas, jackets, collared shirts, scarves, sweatshirts, hats, etc, that have had recent contact in hot water and drying at a high heat setting;
  - d. Washing all towels that have had contact in hot water and drying at a high heat setting;
  - e. Soaking all hair combing and accessories including combs, brushes, head bands, hair clips, etc. product in hot water for at least 20 minutes;
  - f. Vacuuming the rugs in the bedroom, bathroom and mattresses; and
  - g. Attending to any other areas of the house where the child may have rested their head upon a surface such as car seats, coaches, recliners, throw pillows, etc.
8. The family should consult with the child’s pediatrician regarding which topical head lice treatment to use for the child.
9. A student who required a pick-up should check in immediately at the office when s/he returns. The school will support the family by performing follow up checks on identified student’s head.
10. If head lice returns after treatment, a meeting with school administration, health designee, and the family can take place immediately to determine next steps and to remedy the situation in the best interest of the child.
11. In any event that head lice or viable nits are discovered, a notice (including information letter) will be sent home to all students in the school.
12. All students in the classroom of a student with an active infestation or a moderate amount of viable nits are checked for at least two days in a row.