

## **Granby Public Schools**

### **Head Lice Policy**

#### **Goals:**

- Identify infested individuals and see that they are properly treated.
- Break the cycle of re-infestations.
- Decrease school absences for students with head lice.
- Reduce the stigma of head lice among the school community.
- Provide information to students, parents/guardians, and teachers regarding appropriate prevention and management of head lice infestation.

#### **Prevention:**

- Students will be routinely encouraged not to share combs, brushes, scarves, hats and/or any other head covering with other students.
- Classrooms with carpeting will be vacuumed on a regular basis.
- Educational materials about head lice prevention and treatment will be made available to families in the school nurse's office as well as on the Granby Public Schools Health Services website.
- If a student is identified because of association with a diagnosed child with head lice, he/she will be asked to have an examination in the health office.

#### **When Diagnosed:**

- When a student is identified as having a live louse or nits, he/she will be excluded from school. He/she will be asked to stay in the clinic until a parent/guardian can come and pick him/her up from school.
- The child that is being dismissed will be given respect and the staff will maintain confidentiality as to protect the privacy of the student and their family when dealing with a diagnosis of head lice.
- Staff will be notified of a positive case on a need-to-know basis.
- Siblings of any positive cases will also be checked by the school nurse, whether the sibling be in the same school or a different school building. If the sibling is positive for head lice, the sibling will also be excluded from school and will be asked to stay in the clinic until a parent/guardian can come and pick him/her up from school.
- The school nurse may send a general head lice letter to the all of the families in the school, notifying them of a case of head lice in the building if deemed necessary. If students are found to have head lice at both East Meadow and Granby Jr/Sr High School,

then a district-wide general head lice notice will be sent to all families. The school nurse(s) will notify the Principal(s) prior to sending any letters home to families.

- When the student with head lice is picked up from school, parents/guardians will be instructed on how to identify nits and lice, given written information on home environmental treatment, and be encouraged to contact their health care provider as to what treatment to use.
- It is strongly recommended that the student be treated with medicated shampoo or cream rinse prescribed by MD or over-the-counter treatment recommended by their pharmacist.
- Parents/ guardians will be asked to accompany the student to school the next day following treatment. Upon arrival to school, the student will see the school nurse for an examination before entering class. If a live louse is present, then the student will be excluded from school with follow up request to see their healthcare provider. If only nits are present, the student may attend class. The school nurse will review with the parent/guardian on the proper removal of nits as well as review the recommended ongoing care and treatment of head lice.
- The school nurse will re-screen treated students with head lice between days 10 to 14 after initial diagnosis, the duration of the re-screens will be determined by the school nurse.
- The school nurse will be encouraged to reiterate to the parent/guardian the importance of following instructions of the product they used, which usually call for re-treatment no less than 10 days after initial treatment.

**Confidentiality:**

- Names of identified cases will not be revealed to other students, faculty, or other parents/guardians. All communication regarding these cases will be through the school nurse.
- Students will be taught to respect the privacy of others.
- Parents, guardians, teachers or staff who would like to be assisted in identifying nits and lice will be encouraged to contact the school nurse. Their privacy will also be respected.

Approved by School Committee: January 28, 2019

Jan 2019