

# Millville Board of Education District Policy Manual

**Students**

**Series 5000**

**Pediculosis / Head Lice**

**Policy 5132.7**

Date Adopted: May 5, 2014

Date Revised:

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Consistent with the position of the New Jersey Department of Health, National Association of School Nurses and the American Academy of Pediatrics, Millville Public Schools believes that the management of pediculosis (infestation by head lice) should not disrupt the educational process. No disease is associated with head lice, and in school transmission is considered to be rare.

“No-nit” policies requiring that students be free of nits before they return to school have not been effective in controlling transmission and are not recommended.

The certified school nurse, as a student advocate and nursing expert, is included in school district-community planning, implementation and evaluation of vector control programs for the school setting. The school nurse’s goals are to facilitate an accurate assessment of the problem, contain infestation, provide appropriate health information for treatment and prevention, prevent overexposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absence.

In cases that involve head lice, as in all school health issues, it is imperative that the school district and its employees prevent stigmatizing and maintain the student’s privacy as well as the family’s right to confidentiality.

## Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- Head lice: small parasitic insects that live on the scalp and neck of a 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 1 cm of the scalp
- Pediculosis: an active infestation of head lice
- Nit: an egg of a female louse, attached to the hair shaft
- Non-viable nit: an egg found on the hair shaft farther than 1 cm from the scalp; already hatched
- Viable nit: an egg found on a hair shaft closer than 1 cm from the scalp; considered to be unhatched
- Ovacide: chemical which kills eggs/nits
- Pediculicide: chemical which kills nymph stage and adult lice.
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### Regulations / Procedures

Any student suspected of having an active infestation will be referred to the school nurse for evaluation.

A student, with head lice or viable nits visualized by the school nurse, is referred for treatment at the end of the school day. Prompt treatment at home is advised, including removal of live lice and all viable nits. Immediate removal from school is not recommended.

District-approved written information about the identification and management of active head lice infestation will be provided by the school nurse to the parent/guardian of the affected student.

At the discretion of the school nurse, it may be appropriate to screen other children who have had close head to head contact with the student with active infestation, such as household family members, but classroom-wide or school-wide screening is not generally indicated.

Students with nits only, are not excluded from school. A student with non-viable nits will be monitored, not be referred for treatment and may remain in school.

Upon return to school after treatment, the student will be re-assessed for the presence of head lice/nits by the school nurse. If live lice are again visualized, the school nurse will contact the parent/guardian and reinforce the need for prompt treatment at home. The student may be permitted to return to the classroom.

If upon re-assessment by the school nurse, nits are found, either at the time of the initial or return assessment, the student will be assessed at weekly intervals or more frequently at the discretion of the school nurse.

The school nurse retains the authority to, in consultation with school administrator(s), exclude a student with repeated infestations of live lice or viable nits, or a student with a current infestation for which there is inadequate management by the parent/guardian. This student may be referred to his/her healthcare provider and/or the Cumberland County Health Department for additional intervention(s).

A copy of this policy and the New Jersey Department of Health Head Lice fact sheet are provided to parents/guardians at time of school registration and annually thereafter.

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A copy of this policy and the New Jersey Department of Health Head Lice fact sheet are provided to district employees at time of hire and may be reviewed as needed

### Legal & Other References

NJSA 18A:40-7, -8, -10, -11 Exclusion of pupils who are ill

American Academy of Pediatrics (2006). Red Book – Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2010). Head lice information for schools. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>.

Frankowski, B.L. & Bocchinie, J.A. (2010). Clinical Report – Head Lice. Pediatrics. 126(2) 392-403. Retrieved from <http://pediatrics.aappulckiations.org/cgi/content/abstrat/126/2/292>.

National Association of School Nurses (NASN), Pediculosis Management in the School Setting; Position Statement, January 2011.

New Jersey Department of Health: Head Lice – Frequently Asked Questions. Retrieved from [http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/faq/headlice\\_faq.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/faq/headlice_faq.pdf)