

Pine Valley Central School Head Lice Procedure

Subject: Pediculosis Capitis [Head Lice]

- 1. The elementary school nurse examines children at the beginning of each school year and new school entrants upon arrival during the year *as appropriate*. High school students will be examined by the high school nurse on an as needed basis [referral from parents, teachers, self-disclosure or recommendation by other school or health personnel.]**
- 2. Students suspected of having live lice infestation will be checked by the school nurse.**
- 3. Students identified with having live lice infestation will be excluded from the classroom. The parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the child. Printed instructions and verbal review of all instructions will be provided to the parent regarding treatment, disinfection, and return to school procedures. The importance of examining and treating other infested family members will be strongly emphasized. Fine combing with a lice and nit removal comb and manual nit removal is a critical component in the successful treatment and eradication of head lice. It is the parent's responsibility to monitor and treat children as appropriate. The school nurse simply screens children as needed. *This is confidential information and will only be shared with other school staff on an appropriate need to know basis.***
- 4. The school nurse will inspect classmates in the affected student's classroom and other classrooms where there may be potential spread due to student's participation or proximity of activities when appropriate [determined by the nurse]. A written notice including instructions for removal of nits or lice will be sent home with students in the affected classrooms, alerting parents to inspect their children's heads at home.**
- 5. Students identified with only nits will be allowed to remain in school until dismissal. A notice will be sent home advising parents that all nits be removed and the proper methods for nit removal clearly explained by printed materials and verbal explanations as necessary.**
- 6. Prior to school re-entry, students should be accompanied by parent or guardian to the health office to be cleared by the school nurse for return to class. Readmission to the classroom will be allowed if there is no evidence of live lice and the examination shows a clear decrease in the amount of nits on hair shafts. This process will be repeated in 7-10 days following return to school and as needed until the infestation is completely eradicated.**
- 7. Families with repeated and persistent infestation of lice and/or nits will be counseled and advised by the school nurse.**
- 8. If a family is found to have live infestation or nits, the school nurse may examine siblings or other household members and will notify school nurse of siblings attending other school buildings or districts.**
- 9. Poor parental compliance with acceptable and effective treatments and/or poor attendance due to persistent or recurrent head lice may result in a Child Protective Services report of child neglect and/or educational neglect. Prompt treatment and quick return to school is the expected standard of response.**