

The procedure for lice and nits for New Paltz Central Schools has changed. Students will no longer be required to remain out of school if they have nits (lice eggs). Students with head lice will continue to be required to remain out of school until they are lice-free. Those students who have been out of school due to head lice, will be examined for lice when they return to school and rechecked 14 days later to confirm that they remain free of lice.

Head lice are most commonly found in children 3-12 years of age. Head lice do not pose a health hazard, transmit disease, nor serve as a sign of poor hygiene, child abuse or neglect. Nits are not equivalent to head lice, since nits cannot be transmitted from person to person, and therefore will no longer result in school exclusion. Head lice, move by crawling. They cannot jump or fly and are transmitted as a result of direct head-to-head contact. Although uncommon, head lice can be spread by sharing clothing or belongings. This happens when lice crawl, or when nits attached to shed hair hatch and subsequently get on the shared clothing or belongings.

This procedure is endorsed by national organizations such as American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and the National Association of School Nurses. Similar procedures have been adopted successfully by school systems throughout the country.

Procedure:

• Students with head lice will be excluded when they present with active head lice. Parents/guardians will be notified and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible. Instruction in treatment and prevention will be given to the parent.

• Students will be re-examined by the school nurse upon returning to school. Students found with a high concentration of nits have the potential of extending the life cycle. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to take the student home for removal of the nits. Students with active head lice will not be allowed to re-enter until they are lice-free.

• Students that have been cleared of lice will be re-examined in 14 calendar days (or closest school day if 14th day falls on weekend or holiday) by the school nurse.

• Students found to have head lice on re-examination will once again be excluded until they are lice-free.

• No school-wide surveillance will be conducted for nits unless deemed necessary by the school nurse.

* Parents/guardians will be notified if there are positive findings of nits or lice on their child.

• Students with nits and no evidence of live head lice will not be excluded from school.

For more information on Head Lice please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice>

<http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/faq.cfm?subpage=80>

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