

What is my child's school doing to prevent head lice?

The problem of head lice in any school setting requires the implementation of measures by the School Nurse, the parent/guardian, the student, and the administration. This brochure provides you with information on how you can help to prevent and treat head lice.

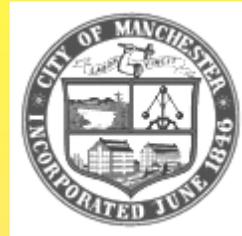
For parents/guardians:

- Teach your child to not share brushes, combs, hats, scarves, pillows, etc.
- Check your child weekly. Be sure to check the top of the head (scalp), behind the ears and at the back of the neck.
- Treat as recommended and do daily lice combing after your child has been treated.
- Vacuum furniture and carpets.
- Wash clothing, bed linens, and pillows.

The School Nurse can help monitor your child for the presence of head lice and show you how to check for head lice and remove any remaining nits (eggs).

The teachers and staff will try to prevent direct head-to-head contact in the classroom.

Students' belongings should be kept separately, either on hooks, cubbies, or in separate plastic bags. Clothes should not be piled on top of each other.



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HEAD LICE IN THE SCHOOL SETTING A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



School Health Division
MANCHESTER HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SCHOOL NURSE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I know how stressed you may feel if you have been told that your child has head lice. First of all, **DO NOT PANIC!** I am here to help answer all of your questions (my phone number is at the bottom of this page) You can use this brochure to refer to later on.

Most importantly, we should all work together to help prevent and treat head lice in your child's school. I ask for your patience in dealing with head lice. Please remember that you should always follow the instructions included with the lice shampoo you purchase and contact your School Nurse and/or doctor if you have any questions or concerns.

Your School Nurse

Telephone #: _____

THE FACTS ABOUT HEAD LICE



- 1. What exactly are head lice?** *They are small insects or parasites.*
- 2. Can head lice fly?** *No, head lice cannot fly, they crawl.*
- 3. Are head lice dangerous?** *No, head lice do not cause any known disease.*
- 4. Can head lice be treated?** *Absolutely! There are several over-the-counter (OTC) shampoos available and your doctor can also prescribe other treatments. Talk to your School Nurse and/or doctor for more information.*
- 5. How will I know if my child has head lice?** *The School Nurse or yourself will find a head louse or an egg (nit) on your child.*
- 6. How did my child get head lice?** *There are only 2 ways to get head lice, either directly by head contact with a student who has head lice or indirectly through the sharing of infested brushes, combs, pillows, etc.*
- 7. Will everyone have to know that my child has head lice?** *Absolutely not, but sometimes the School Nurse will need to let the teacher know to make sure that "prevention" measures are taking place in that classroom.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT AND/OR TREAT YOUR CHILD WITH HEAD LICE

- MAKE IT A **REGULAR PRACTICE** TO CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HEAD FOR LICE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK-THE SCHOOL NURSE CAN SHOW YOU HOW.
- WHEN YOUR CHILD COMES HOME FROM SCHOOL, HAVE THEM CHANGE THEIR CLOTHES—YOU SHOULD CHECK THEIR ITEMS CAREFULLY (ESPECIALLY THE COLLARS ON COATS AND SHIRTS) AND THEN WASH AND DRY ALL THE CLOTHES USING THE HOT CYCLES.
- TELL YOUR CHILD NOT TO SHARE BRUSHES, COMBS OR HATS AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL—(**this is indirect contact**)
- CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HEAD AFTER SLEEPOVERS, ATTENDANCE AT CAMPS, ETC.
- IF YOUR CHILD GETS HEAD LICE, FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SHAMPOO CAREFULLY AND BE SURE TO DO A SECOND TREATMENT ACCORDING TO THE PACKAGE INSTRUCTIONS. YOU WILL STILL NEED TO CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HEAD DAILY WITH A LICE COMB (THE SCHOOL NURSE CAN SHOW YOU HOW).
- CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.