

Flemington-Raritan School District Pediculosis Guidelines

A Move to Evidence-Based Practice

Why Are The Pediculosis Guidelines Being Updated?

- ❑ Many Lice protocols that exist in U.S. schools today were established years ago
 - ❑ These protocols, or practice procedures, were based on tradition and misinformation rather than scientific evidence
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What Should Be Taken in Consideration when Nursing Procedures Are Being Updated?

☐ Best Practice Guidelines

☐ Evidence-based Practice

Best Practice Guidelines

- ☐ Systematically developed statements about appropriate health care
 - ☐ Provide a way for nurses to utilize the most current, reliable information about how to handle a specific problem or illness
 - ☐ Are based on the best possible and highest quality evidence
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Evidence-Based Practice

Current research and knowledge from biological, statistical, clinical and population health sciences are used to substantiate specific nursing practices

Sources for Evidence-Based Practice for Head Lice

- ❑ American Academy of Pediatrics
 - ❑ National Association of School Nurses
 - ❑ Center for Disease Control
 - ❑ Harvard School of Public Health
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What Were the Recommendations of Our Resources?

- ☐ Screening
 - ☐ Exclusions
 - ☐ Treatment recommendations
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Screening

- ❑ School based screening is not supported by the literature

(American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009; CDC, 2007; Pollack 2009)

- ❑ Dr. Pollack supports caregiver screening in the home environment as opposed to the school setting
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Screening, cont'd

- ❑ "Screening for nits alone is not an accurate way of predicting which children are or will become infested"
- ❑ "Screening for live lice has not been proven to have a significant effect on the incidence of head lice in a school community over time"

Pediatrics 7/26/10

Exclusion

- ❑ Exclusion of children from school with nits or live lice has not been supported by current literature
 - ❑ "No healthy child should be excluded from or allowed to miss school because of head lice. No-nit policies for return to school should be abandoned." *Pediatrics 7/26/10*
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Exclusion, cont'd

- "Students infested with head lice are excluded unnecessarily from school and miss valuable academic time."
Sciscione and Krause-Parello, 2007
 - "No-Nit policies that require a student to be free of nits before returning to school are not recommended. *CDC 5/26/07*
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Exclusion, cont'd

- "It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses that the management of pediculosis should not disrupt the education process."

www.nasn.org

- "The discovery of lice or their eggs on the hair should not cause the child to be sent home or isolated." *Pollack, 2007*
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Treatment

- ❑ The use of home remedies has not been supported by literature.
 - ❑ Parent/Guardians need a simple process to follow for the treatment of active head lice infestations.
 - ❑ Decision making algorithms have been developed by Dr. Richard Pollack (Harvard School of Public Health) and are included in our Guidelines.
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What was eliminated from our previous Guidelines?

- ☐ Classroom head lice screening programs
- ☐ No-nit exclusion policies
- ☐ Bagging of clothes
- ☐ Restricted use of headphones or athletic gear such as helmets
- ☐ Notification of classmates' parents

Pollock, 2007

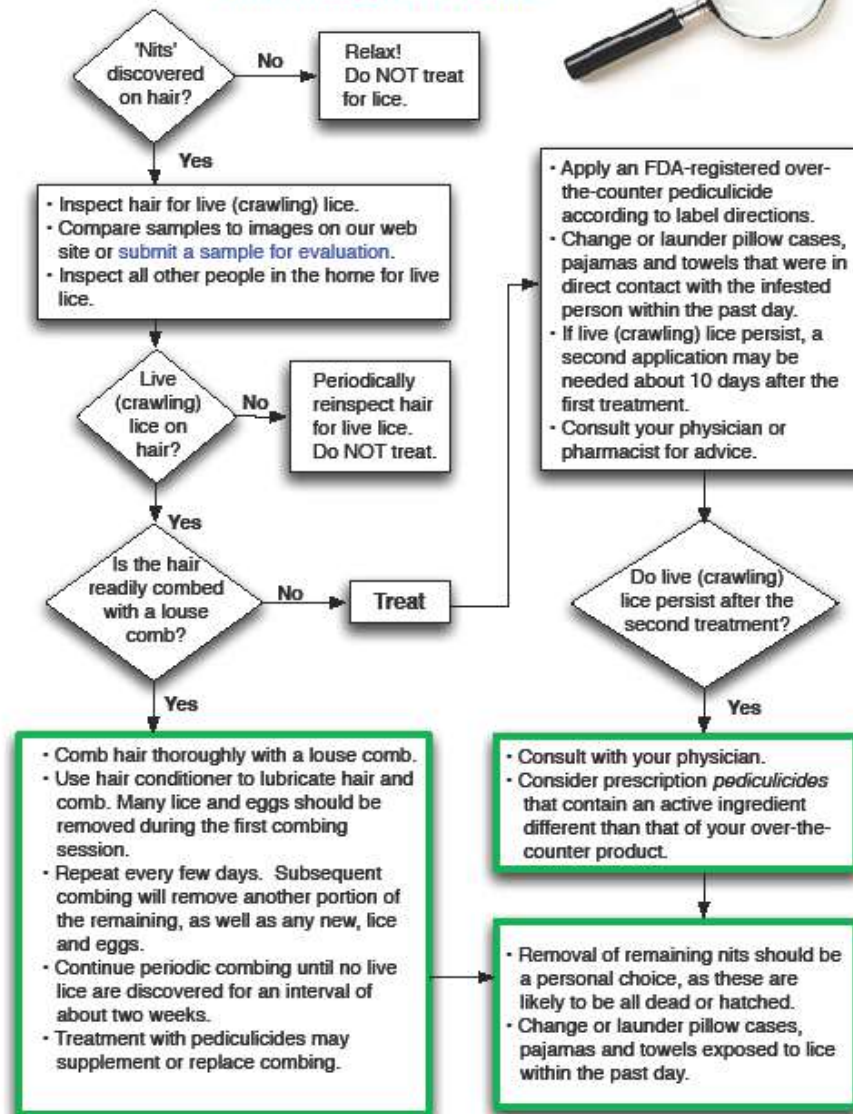
What is included in our new Guidelines?

- Guidelines for School Nurses include:
 - Education of staff and parents
 - Screening guidelines
 - Referral process
 - Exclusion not mandatory
 - Preventative measures
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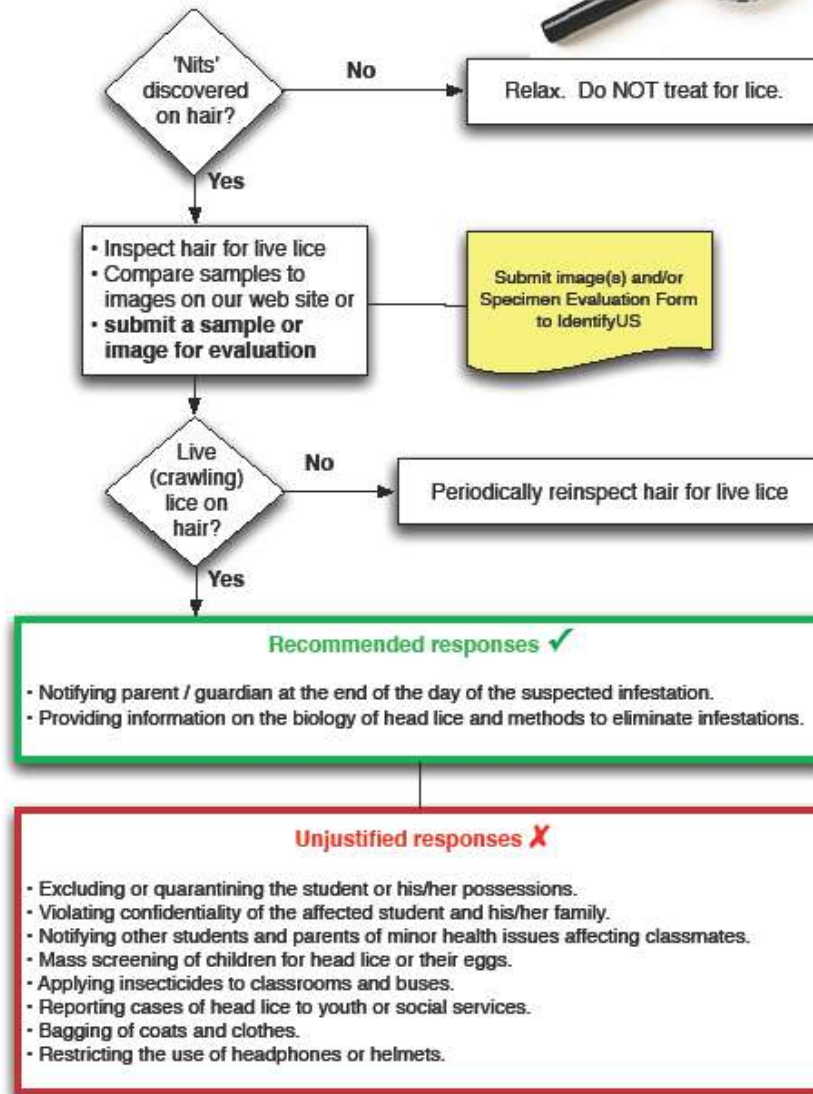
What else is included in new Guidelines?

- ☐ Information sheet for Parents
 - ☐ Information sheet for Staff
 - ☐ Treatment Information Sheet for Parents
 - ☐ Scheme for “Managing Presumed Head Louse infestations at home” (algorithm)
 - ☐ Scheme for “Managing Presumed Head Louse Infestations in Schools” (algorithm)
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Managing presumed head louse infestations at home



Managing presumed head louse infestations in schools



In Conclusion

Aside from an itchy scalp caused by a reaction to their saliva, head lice cause no physical distress and transmit no diseases

Lice are considered a nuisance, not a public health threat

Our guidelines are based on the most current research and evidence concerning the transmission of lice

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- ❑ Our proposed guidelines have been approved and endorsed by the Hunterdon County Board of Health and the Hunterdon County entomologist
 - ❑ The County would like to use our guidelines as a model for Best Practice
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References

- ❑ American Academy of Pediatrics. Head Lice. Pediatrics Aug 2010; 126: 392-403
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/126/2/392?maxtoshow=&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=headlice&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&resourcetype=HWCIT>
 - ❑ Anderson, K. & McCarthy, A. (Dec 2009). A Policy Change Strategy for Head Lice Management. Journal of School Nursing. Vol. 24 No. 6
 - ❑ Sciscione, P. & Krause-Parello, C. (Feb. 2007). No-Nit Policies in School: Time for Change. Journal of School Nursing. Vol. 23 No. 1
 - ❑ CDC (2004). Parasites and Health
 - ❑ CDC (2008) Lice: Head Lice: Schools
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References (cont'd)

- ❑ Center for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/lice/head/schools.html>
<http://www.cdc.gov/lice/head/prevent.html>
 - ❑ Frankowski, B.L. & Weiner, L.B. (2002). AAP Clinical Report: Head Lice.
 - ❑ Harvard School of Public Health (Pollack, R.J.)
<http://www.hsph.edu/headlice.html> <http://identify.us.com/head-lice/head-lice-FAQS/>
 - ❑ NASN Position Statement- Pediculosis
 - ❑ NASN (2010). Scratch (School and Community Resources to Avoid and Take Control of Head Lice).
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