

In light of current research which demonstrates that a “no-nit policy” does not shorten the length of outbreaks in schools, MUFSD now recommends a no-lice policy rather than a “no nit” policy.

In accordance with the Mamaroneck UFSD School Physician, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control and the National Association of School Nurses, we have adopted the following policy for head lice. This policy will ensure a consistent, coordinated and cooperative approach to managing head lice in the school community.

1. No child should unnecessarily miss valuable school time because of head lice.
2. Any child found to have live lice in his/her hair will be sent home.
3. Students initially found to have nits in his/her hair/scalp (who do not have proof of recent treatment) will be sent home until treatment is provided.
4. After a diagnosis of head lice is made:
 - a. Student will be given the exposure notice/written instructions for “Head lice” (see attached)
 - b. In the elementary school, it is prudent to check other children in the index child’s classroom or those who were most likely to have had direct head-to-head contact with the index child.
 - c. In the elementary school, parents or guardians of all children in the index child’s classroom will be notified.
 - d. Parents or guardians will continue to be encouraged to notify families who may have been exposed to his/her child.
5. Students will remain home until either they have been shampooed with a topical pediculicide **or** they no longer have any sign of nits in his/her hair.
6. Because none of the pediculicides are 100% ovicidal, manual removal of nits (especially the ones within 1cm of the scalp) is recommended after treatment with any product.
7. Upon return to school:
 - a. A child should be allowed to return to school after treatment with a pediculicide even if nits are present.
 - i. If no pediculicide was used, child must be nit-free to return to school
 - b. Students must go to the health office upon return to school:
 - i. To bring the empty container from the shampoo bottle, or
 - ii. To have his/her scalp examined.
 - c. The amount of remaining nits in a student’s scalp/hair, after treatment, will determine if the child remains in school. This decision is at the discretion of the school nurse.
 - d. Since 20% to 30% of the eggs remain viable after treatment, a second treatment 7 to 10 days later to kill newly emerged nymphs hatched from eggs that survived the first treatment will be highly recommended. No proof of this second treatment is needed.

8. Students with recent lice infestation will be examined by the nurse 14 days after return to school and periodically thereafter. If live lice are present, the student will be sent home to repeat the same process.
9. If nits are present in a child's hair, periodic reinspection of the hair for live lice will be done by the school nurse.
10. Confidentiality must be maintained at all times.

* Note: Children, whose parents choose not to use a pediculicide, may not return to school with nits. They must be checked by the school nurse as described above.