

# Boone County Schools Health Services

## Head Lice Procedures

### **Introduction**

For the purpose of controlling head lice at school, the Boone County Schools will follow a 'no live lice' procedure. When a student is observed to have live head lice, that student, playmates closely associated with the student and siblings of the student that attend the same school may be checked for live (crawling) lice. Principals, school personnel trained to identify live lice, students and their parents/guardians shall adhere to the following guidelines:

### **Parent/guardian notification**

Parents of students who are found to have live head lice shall be offered visual evidence of live lice in the student's hair and written/verbal directions for hair treatment and household procedures (refer to Head Lice Checklist).

### **In order for a child to continue regular school attendance after the identification of live lice, the following must occur:**

- The student must go home and shall be excluded from school until their hair has had an application of a lice killing treatment. The parent/guardian must also comb the student's hair with a lice/nit comb or manually remove lice and nits before returning to school;
- Designated trained school personnel must re-check the student prior to return to the classroom;
- If live lice remain, the student shall again be excluded from school; verbal/written instructions will be provided and the parent/guardian will use a nit comb or manually remove lice and nits on the student's hair and/or
- A second application of a special lice killing treatment is to be applied within the recommended time frame.

### **Absences**

Absences from school due to live head lice will be considered excused the day the student is sent home and one day following. Absences after that time will be considered unexcused.

### **The school bus**

In cases where it is impossible for a parent/guardian to retrieve the child, the child may be sent home on the school bus. Transportation personnel should be notified and may provide independent seating for that student, maintaining the student's dignity and confidentiality.

### **Follow-up**

At the elementary level, parents/guardians of all children in the affected child's classroom are to be notified that live lice have been identified, encouraging that all children be checked at home and treated if appropriate before returning to school the next day.

Students observed to have live lice are to be re-checked by designated trained school personnel on a weekly basis for a minimum of four weeks to ensure there are no further live lice.

### **Control measures at school**

Lice spray is not to be used at school. Routine cleaning of rooms and buildings with thorough vacuuming of carpets and upholstered furniture is recommended. Without a human host, most lice will not survive for over 48 hours. During an outbreak of live lice it is advisable to bag in plastic for 2 weeks items not washed (clothes in a dress-up area or stuffed animals). Coats may be placed in individual plastic bags or elementary students may be requested to put coat/jackets in their backpacks to help minimize the spread of lice.