

## **Framingham Public Schools and Community Head Lice Management Plan**

Head lice (pediculosis) is a common childhood condition that affects many families during the school-aged years. Head lice outbreaks in our children and schools are best managed with a collaborative community effort. The Head Lice Management Plan established by School Health Services is designed to be family friendly and sensitive to individual needs. Our goal is to support families and keep children where they need to be...in school!

School Health Services will support families with strategies that emphasize prevention and early detection. Educational materials which address up-to-date methods for treating and controlling lice at home and in our schools will be available from our school nurses.

Families will support the school community by taking an active role in head lice management through prevention, early detection, and the timely use of effective treatment options.

### **The School's Role in Head Lice Management**

- Classroom screening activities will take place at the discretion of the school nurse.
- Children will be screened at school if lice are suspected or as a result of a reported case.
- Families will be notified by school personnel the same day their child has been identified with head lice. Dismissal from school will be at the discretion of the school nurse.
- If a student is identified as having a case of head lice (nits and/or live lice), he/she will be assessed and referred for treatment at home using safe and appropriate treatment methods will be at the discretion of the school nurse.
- Siblings and close contacts of the identified student in the school/district will be assessed for head lice.
- Families of other students in the classroom of the identified student will be notified if there are multiple cases of lice in a classroom. Additional notifications will be at the discretion of the school nurse.
- Families of children with head lice will be provided with information regarding treatments and management of head lice.
- The school nurse will assess a student for infestation prior to his/her return to the classroom. The parent/guardian will accompany the student and remain until the assessment is completed. Several assessments may be required.
- If nits are found following treatment, at the nurse's discretion, the student may be returned to class or dismissed to home for additional care.

## Parent/Caregiver Role in Head Lice Management

- Check children at home for head lice regularly throughout the school year *and* during the summer months.
- If you become aware that your child has head lice, *thoroughly* check household contacts and *treat* as necessary.
- If you become aware that your child has head lice, *notify* your school nurse immediately.
- If you become aware that your child has head lice, *notify* others who have been in close contact with your child during the past 2-3 weeks.
- If you become aware that your child has head lice, *you* are responsible to treat him/her *using safe, thorough methods, including complete removal of nits*.
- Refer to educational materials provided by the school nurse and contact your child's primary care provider for treatment recommendations.
- *If you have treated your child for lice, you should continue to check him/her and household contacts for new nits EVERY DAY for 10 -14 days after treatment.*
- Teach children not to share personal items such as hats, combs and brushes, etc.