The Mingo County Board of Education recognizes the importance of regular school attendance and the maintenance of a learning environment conducive to the academic success of children. These two areas of emphasis are often in conflict when dealing with cases of pediculosis (lice). In an effort to reconcile these areas, while still protecting other children from infestation, the following procedures shall be followed when children with this condition is identified. Mingo County Public Schools in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses, has determined that “no nit” policies are ineffective in controlling out breaks of head lice. Children who are found to have more than 5 nits within 1cm. or ¼ of an inch from the scalp and/or live lice, the parent or guardian shall be called and made aware of the situation.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Have at least two persons in the building trained by the school nurse to check for live lice.
- An educational letter is to be sent home at this time to explain the household control measures.
- Sweep all carpeted areas daily.
- Discourage dress up hats, wigs, and stuffed animals in the classroom.
- The principal or designated trained personnel must check the student when he or she returns to school to determine whether the student is lice free.
- Screen siblings immediately and close contacts of infested students as soon as possible and inform school nurses of known contact cases for students in other school buildings.
- After the student has returned to school, parents and school personnel should make periodic checks to assure that the student does not have continued infestation, while ensuring confidentiality of the student.
- Notify the school health nurse of continued problems.
- After a student has been referred or sent home due to the presence of live lice six (6) times within a three-month period, the student will be referred to Child Protective Services.
- As per the recommendation of the West Virginia Council of School Nurses (WVCOSN)* classroom screening is not warranted.
SCHOOL NURSE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Train designated persons to screen for lice.
- See that schools have copies of lice information letters.
- Provide information for students and staff about lice and lice management.
- Collaborate with other community agencies as needed.
- Parent and student educational programs may be provided to groups (e.g. PTO’s, LSIC, etc.) in collaboration with the local health department and other community health providers.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Arrange for an infested student to be transported home, if unable to transport student home, student will return to class and parent notified of need to treat infestation.
- Appropriately treat student, remove nits, treat other infested family members and do all appropriate house cleaning to rid the house of possible head lice infestation.
- Accompany student to the school upon return of an absence due to head lice infestation to verify with school personnel the student is free of live lice.
- Check children daily/weekly for signs of head lice.

If a student is identified as being infested, while ensuring confidentiality, that student’s siblings, locker partners and close playmates should be checked and parent/guardians notified of need for lice precautions. Confidentiality of infested students will be maintained at all times. It is ineffective and inefficient to check an entire school population for head lice.

The Mingo County School Nurses will work with the Mingo County Health Department for situations of serious and widespread head lice infestations.

*WVCOSN- West Virginia Council of School Nurses

Adopted: November 19, 2007
References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (May 2001). Update on H
Schools: Do ‘No-Nit’ Policies Work? Retrieved on March 2005 from

Retrieved on March 16, 2006 from

National Association of School Nurses. (July 2004). Position Statement. Pediculosis in
the School Community. Retrieved on November 3, 2005 from

Pollack, Richard J. PhD. (August 9, 2000). Head Lice Information. Harvard School of
http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html#harm.

West Virginia Council of School Nurses. (2006). Recommendations for Public School

http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/107/5/1011.