

## Students

Series 500

Policy Title Students with Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Code No. 507.11

Pediculosis capitis, commonly known as head lice, is a condition of small parasitic insects that live on the scalp and neck hairs of human hosts. The goal of this policy is not to eradicate pediculosis, which is impossible, but to keep it at a manageable level. The Center for Disease Control (CDC, 2010), the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) recommend that no healthy child be excluded from school or allowed to miss school because of head lice.

Any student found to have lice on the hair or scalp while at school will remain in school. Parent/guardian of the student will be notified by the school nurse that day to inform of the condition and how to treat the student. Oral and written information regarding head lice will be given to the parent/guardian. The student will be treated at home for head lice.

The school nurse is the key professional to provide education and anticipatory guidance to the school community regarding best practice guidance in the management of pediculosis. The school nurse's goals are to facilitate and accurate assessment of the problem, contain infestation, provide appropriate health information for treatment and prevention, prevent over exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absence. School nurses are also an important factor in dispelling myths and social stigmas regarding head lice in the school community (NASN,2013).

The Marshalltown Community School District will follow the recommendations as

outlined in the School Nurse Manual under Head Lice, kept at each school. This manual is reviewed annually and updated as new evidence is presented.

Adopted: February 14, 1994

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

Reviewed: March 3, 2014  
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155A.4(2)"c", Iowa Code  
Education (281)--41.23(281,256B);12.3(9)  
Pharmacy(657)--10.16(204),IAC

Amended: June 9, 1997  
September 8, 2003  
April 20, 2009  
March 17, 2014

Cross Reference: 504.2 Exclusion for Contagious Disease  
409.5 Communicable Disease-Employees