



POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT

SECTION: SCHOOL NURSING

POLICY #607 PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice) SCREENING

POLICY: CVHD RNs (school nurses) will be available in the school setting to confirm as positive a suspected case of head lice and educate students and parents on the proper procedure to follow in treating confirmed cases of head lice (pediculosis). CVHD staff nurses are also available at CVHD office to re-check affected person after treatment and removal of nits to confirm “nit-free” status before the student/staff can return to the school setting.

PURPOSE: To maintain a nit free school setting.

PROCEDURE:

1. Assessment will be made regarding exposure, symptoms, and/or treatment.
2. Elementary schools are highly encouraged to conduct school wide head lice screening at the beginning of the school year and upon return from Christmas vacation. Additional screenings should be conducted as the need arises.
3. The school is responsible for organizing volunteers to assist in the screening process.
4. CVHD nursing staff will be available to in-service the volunteers on the head lice screening process.
5. Screening procedure will be explained to student/staff.
6. Using an applicator stick, inspect the hair and scalp by parting the hair in a systematic manner looking for nits (tear-drop shape) attached on one side to the hair shaft, (color may vary from white to dark gray) and/or live lice. A hand magnifying glass may be helpful. Natural light usually provides the best light for identifying lice.
7. In order to avoid mistaking artifacts for nits (artifacts, i.e., hair spray, scales, dandruff) attempt to pull particle from the hair shaft. Most artifacts are easily removed from the hair shaft. If it remains attached, suspect nits. Artifacts may encircle the entire hair shaft.
8. Positive cases will be instructed on treatment and proper cleaning regime. (printed instructions will be sent home with student/staff) See attached form 607A and 607B.
9. All persons in school settings will be re-examined by Central Valley Health Unit nursing staff after treatment. They will be allowed to return to school only if they are nit free. Documentation will be completed on a clients chart and “black” log book.
10. A note will be sent with the student/staff to indicate that they are nit-free and have been cleared by CVHD.
11. Any positive cases will be documented in school log and on the student’s yellow card.