

Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union  
Middletown Springs Town School District  
Tinmouth Town School District

Ira Town School District  
Poultney Town School District  
Wells Town School District

### **Head Lice**

**Code # F-17  
(Mandatory)**

(Revised February, 2005 in accord with Vermont Department of Health Recommendations.)

#### **Policy**

The psychological, social and economical impact of head lice infestations can create a problem in the community. Recognizing that a sizeable number of cases exist from time to time, the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union and its member districts will take the necessary measures to reduce the loss of instructional time for students. This policy is based on current recommendations by the Vermont Department of Health and other public health organizations.

Prevention strategies are an important part of controlling the spread of lead lice. The Superintendent, or designee, using public health resources when necessary, will develop a plan detailing a system-wide approach to preventing and controlling the spread of a head lice infestation. The plan will include the following:

1. Identify partners who will need to collaborate such as parents and children, school nurses, custodians and other school personnel, child care providers, local physicians, town health officers, public health staff, community health clinic staff, community volunteers and other community and business members (e.g. dry cleaners, laundromats, pharmacies).
2. Provide in-service education for all staff with emphasis on diagnosis, mode of transmission, treatment, and control plans.
3. Prepare educational materials which will be distributed at least annually at the beginning of each school year to parents and students as well as immediately following any outbreak at school.
4. Institute school and classroom practices that include
  - o Assign individual hooks for student belongings.
  - o Have students keep their hats inside their coat sleeves.
  - o Permanently assign resting mats, towels or pillows and keep separate while in use or in storage.
  - o Discourage sharing of combs, brushes or hair ornaments.
  - o Limit the transporting of personal toys such as stuffed animals from home to school.

#### **Managing Head Lice Cases**

1. Any staff member who suspects head lice will report this immediately to the school nurse or Principal.
2. Any student identified by the school nurse (or qualified designee) as having lice and untreated nits shall be discouraged from close contact with others and be sent home at the end of the school day.
3. Verbal and written instructions for treatment will be given to the family of each identified student. The instructions shall include a suggestion that the parent or guardian of the student contact the child's physician or other pediatric health care provider. Instructions shall also include recommendations for treatment that are consistent with Vermont Departments of Health

and Education guidelines and that the student may return to school after proper treatment. The school nurse or other trained personnel will examine all children in the same classroom with an identified active case (untreated nits or actual lice) and handle appropriately.

4. Students will be readmitted to school after the first treatment with a written or verbal confirmation from the parent or guardian that the initial treatment has been completed. In accord with Department of Health recommendations, students will not be excluded from school on the sole grounds that nits may be present despite appropriate treatment.
5. Each re-entering student will be examined by trained personnel to look for evidence that the treatment was performed. Re-treatment recommendations will be consistent with Vermont Department of Health and Department of Education guidelines. Parents will be notified of any re-infestation, and referred to the child's physician or pediatric health care provider for consideration of prescription medication.
6. If the number of cases is considered to constitute an outbreak, administrative personnel will institute the outbreak procedures that accompany this policy. An outbreak is considered to have occurred when head lice infestation occurs in 2-3 students in the same classroom or when 10% of the individuals in a classroom, school, or child care facility have evidence of infestation.
7. The school nurse will provide additional in-service education as needed for staff with emphasis on diagnosis, treatment and control plans.
8. The school nurse will initiate educational programs for students as necessary.
9. Students who report to school identified as having head lice for a third time, will be treated by the school nurse after obtaining written or verbal permission from the parent or guardian.

*Legal References:*

*VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices, §2120.8.1.3.3*

*VT School Health Services Manual: Standards of Practice,*

*Appendix 29-A-1 through 29-A-8*

*Cross Reference:*

	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union	10/27/08	None
Ira Town School District	N/A	None
Middletown Springs Town School District	12/20/08	3/7/08
Poultney Town School District	2/17/09	12/19/01
Tinmouth Town School District	6/8/09	10/8/07
Wells Town School District	11/19/08	3/24/94

