Head Lice Management Policy

Goals:
● Identify individuals with head lice and see that they are properly treated.
● Break the cycle of re-infestations.
● Decrease school absences for students.
● Provide information to students, parents and teachers regarding appropriate management of head lice infestation.

Policy:
The policy of the MTRSD regarding head lice is that no student will be dismissed during the school day for live lice or nits. If a student is reported to have head lice the District School Nurse will do the following:
1. The student will be examined to determine if there is an active infestation; live lice or many nits less than one-quarter inch from scalp. (Due to the rate hair growth many nits that are farther away from the scalp will not hatch or have already hatched).
2. If the District School Nurse determines that there is an active infestation the student’s parent/guardian will be notified but the student may remain in school until the end of the school day
3. It is the responsibility of the parent to make arrangements with the District School Nurse for the student to be examined before re-entry into school. The parent must accompany the child to school for this examination so that the District School Nurse can check for the presence of live lice, review treatment, and provide any needed instructions or support.
4. Only one day will be allowed as an excused absence for the purpose of treatment. More time out of school than this will be considered unexcused absences due to parental/guardian non-compliance and will be referred to the Principal for follow up. It is recognized that no child should routinely be excluded from school due to head lice and parents will be encouraged to treat promptly if needed and return the child to school the next day.
5. Chronic or repeated head lice infestations should be referred to the District Nurse Leader for consultation. In the case of repeated head lice infestations the child may be excluded from school as long as the case is active (live lice) and until the effective treatment has been provided.
6. Parents should examine all members of the family for head lice and all close contacts should be notified.
7. The District School Nurse will provide educational materials and resources to parents/guardians, students, and school staff regarding head lice infestations, management and treatment.

Rationale:
● A head lice infestation is a mild health condition without serious health consequences and should not be considered as a major health threat to those infested or those potentially exposed.
● Head lice cannot be completely eliminated from communities or schools.
The most effective point of control of head lice is the head hair of those affected and others in the home.

Head lice screening programs have not been proven to have any effect on the incidence of head lice in the school setting over time.

No healthy student should be excluded for or allowed to miss school time because of head lice.

School Protocol:

- An informational bulletin regarding head lice infestation and management may be sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year.
- If a case of head lice is confirmed the District School Nurse will conduct a classroom check.
- Head check screenings will be done in all elementary schools at the beginning of the school year and after each school break.
- The MTRSD does not provide medicated products for the treatment of head lice, nor is it the District School Nurse’s job to manually remove nits from student’s hair.
- The District School Nurse may send a letter to parents notifying them of a case of head lice if the nurse deems it appropriate.

Adopted: April 5, 2017
Mohawk Trail Regional School District