

Purpose of Policy

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents/guardians/carers, teachers and children. Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases – they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the control and management of head lice infections is a shared responsibility amongst a number of agencies, including the DET, Department of Human Services, schools and parents. The DET is responsible for providing advice and support to schools regarding head lice management. Timboon P-12 School is committed to managing head lice in a sensitive and confidential manner. We are committed to the above responsibilities.

Aim

To define the role of the school and home in the treatment of head lice by stating the:

- Responsibilities of both the school and the parent/guardian/carer
- Importance of an all inclusive health approach, to ensure an appropriate and efficient solution to the problem of head lice.

Implementation

Parent/Guardian/Carer - responsibilities include:

- Regularly (preferably once a week) inspecting their child's hair to look for lice or lice eggs and regularly inspecting all household members and then treating them if necessary
- Taking part in the "headlice action long weekend" inspections
- Ensuring their child does not attend school with untreated head lice
- Using safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk
- Notifying the school if their child is affected and advising the school when the treatment has started.
- Notifying parents or carers of your child's friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

School - responsibilities include:

- Distributing policies and information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians/carers and staff and having accessible clear protocols for the inspection program that the school implements
- Encouraging those persons authorised by the school principal, e.g. teacher, to visually check a student's hair, i.e. with no physical contact with the child, if the presence of head lice is suspected
- Encouraging parents/guardians/carers to continue to regularly (preferably once per week) check their child for head lice and providing a sympathetic attitude and practical advice to those parents experiencing difficulty with the control measures
- Administer the tracking of families' participation in the "headlice action weekends"
- Encouraging students to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue
- Being aware that the responsibility to exclude a child from a school rests with the principal or person in charge of the school; that exclusion only refers to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs; and that the Department of Human Services recommends that students who are suspected of having live head lice should be excluded from school at the conclusion of the school day. A phone call to inform the parent that their child may have head lice will be made prior to the end of the school day.
- Being aware that there is no requirement in the *Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001* for a child treated for head lice to obtain a clearance certificate to be issued either by a general practitioner or a municipal council, on return to school.

Head lice

- Where appropriate, and at the principal’s discretion, providing an alert notice to the school community, when head lice have been detected in the school.

Samples:



Timboon P-12 School

P.O Box 82 Timboon 3268
Telephone (03)5598 3381
Fax (03)5598 3507
Email timboon.p12@edumail.vic.gov.au

Strength Through Understanding

REF: Head lice Action Plan March 6th to 8th March 2010.

Dear Parents,

Head lice:

“30% of children at school can have head lice at any one time”.

This is the findings of a recent study.



Nobody likes head lice:



- Children scratch continuously
- Parents treat them regularly
- Teachers also catch them and spend the day looking at eggs and lice in children’s hair.
- Head lice are a community problem. They spread through families, schools, social groups and cost a small fortune to get rid of.

What does the school do about it?

- We have used parent helpers to detect lice in previous years but this does not guarantee that proper treatment occurs at home. The number of people volunteering has diminished.
- We send notes home as soon as we are informed of the presence of lice in a classroom.

Our United Approach.

We would like families to unite in the fight against head lice over the coming **long weekend:**

check, treat and inform the school of the action you have taken.

Each family will be asked to return a form, to the youngest child’s teacher, indicating that they have taken part in the program. Those families who have not returned a form will be contacted by a fellow up letter to find out what course of action has been taken.

Department of Human Services regulations require that any student who has contracted head lice not attend school until treatment has commenced. Solutions for treatment are available from any pharmacy, supermarket, hairdresser or alternatively by implementing the repeated conditioner and combing treatment.

A head lice brochure has been sent out to assist you with the detection and treatment of head lice.

Andrea Taylor
Assistant Principal

Return to School (The youngest child’s classroom teacher) on Tuesday 9th March.

Family Name:.....

Name Of Child	Class	Eggs (E) lice (L) nothing (N)detected	Treated (If L or E found)

Parents Signature:..... Date:.....