HEAD LICE PROTOCOL IN THE SCHOOLS

1. When there is a report of head lice or if a student is suspected of having head lice, a school nurse or designated school employee will discretely check the referred student for live lice or nits (eggs). If student is found to have live lice or nits, the siblings of the student may also be checked. Extreme care should be taken to protect the privacy of the student and family.

2. If live lice are found, a parent/guardian will be immediately notified and be provided information about evidence-based treatment options and steps to follow.

3. At the parents’ discretion, the student may be checked-out or sent home at the end of the school day. The student should be treated before returning to school. Head lice should not contribute to student absenteeism; therefore, removal from the classroom is usually unnecessary. If the student returns to class before receiving treatment, it is helpful to limit participation in activities involving head-to-head contact or sharing of personal items.

4. Classroom-wide or grade-level lice checks are unnecessary. However, if additional cases of head lice are reported or found in the classroom, the Principal may choose to send home an information letter to parents of that class.

5. The school nurse or designated school employee may follow-up on cases of head lice as needed.

Suzanne Livingston, RN  Date
Bureau Director School Nursing
Utah County Health Department
801-851-7015

David C. Flinders, M.D.  Date
Medical Director
Utah County Health Department