

Gorham School Department Head Lice Procedure

In accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Harvard School of Public Health and the National Association of School Nurses, it is the policy of the Gorham School Department that no student or staff member will be prevented from attending school due to a case of head lice.

When a suspected incidence of head lice is present in the school system the following actions will be initiated:

A. Maintaining confidentiality, the student will be checked by a school nurse as soon as a nurse is available. The student will remain in class until a nurse is available. If head lice/nits are found, the student's parent/guardian will be notified. Siblings will also be checked, when possible. For new cases, if the student has live lice and/or 6 or more nits, the school nurse will recommend that the student be transported home by the parent/guardian for treatment that day, but if no transportation is readily available, the student will be allowed to remain for the day as usual.

B. Verbal assistance, including procedures for treatment and home care measures, will be offered at the time of notification by the school nurse.

C. Written instructions (i.e., Gorham Schools Head Lice Plan and Household Control Measures) on measures to be taken at home will be sent home with the student to assist parents/guardians in alleviating the source of infestation.

D. If a school nurse is available at the start of the next school day, the student will be checked for progress with lice eradication. The school nurse may call the parent/guardian with recommendations if warranted but the student will not be excluded from riding the school bus and attending class.

E. If three or more students in a class have head lice, the entire class will be checked as soon as a school nurse is available. A note to communicate that there is head lice in the school building will be sent home to parents.