

MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Head Lice Policy Changes
Effective: 11/05/2013

DATE: November 5, 2013

TO: MBUSD Principals

FROM: Kristin Walz, RN, PHN District Nurse
Tami Simmons, RN, PHN, District Nurse

SUBJECT: Revised Board Policy 5141.33 Head Lice

Background: The following policy is consistent with the Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in March 2012. CDPH guidelines and a position statement by the California School Nurses Organization note that, although lice are a nuisance, they are not associated with the spread of disease and are not highly transferable in the school setting.

The CDPH publishes a brochure for parents/guardians, *A Parent's Guide to Head Lice*, which is available on the CDPH web site (see link below). As discussed in the brochure, the recommended treatment for head lice involves nit combing and use of an over-the-counter head lice shampoo. Prescription treatments are also available.

The CDPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and California School Nurses Organization all oppose "no-nit" policies (i.e., policies that require students to be free of nits before returning to school), citing lack of evidence that such policies prevent or shorten outbreaks and their belief that the benefits of school attendance outweigh the risks of head lice.

Key Changes: The updated policy reflects **NEW STATE GUIDANCE** from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on head lice prevention and control in schools. In accordance with CDPH guidance, the policy (1) deletes routine screening by schools and the school's responsibility to check siblings of infected students, (2) adds the provision of information to parents/guardians to encourage at-home screening and inspection, (3) allows students found with active head lice to stay in school until the end of the school day, and (4) gives discretion to the principal or designee to determine whether to send notification and information to parents/guardians when students in a class or school are found infested with head lice.

Helpful link with Educational Material:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/pages/HeadLice.aspx>