

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

The Board recognizes that district programs should be conducted in a manner that protects and enhances student and employee health and is congruent with recognized health practices.

District staff shall institute guidelines in developing consistent procedures for the care of pediculosis (head lice) based on current research and current diagnosis, treatment protocols, and management guidelines from American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of School Nurses, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Head lice are not a health hazard or a sign of uncleanliness and are not responsible for the spread of disease. Lice do not hop, fly or jump, they crawl. Transmission in most cases occurs by direct contact, head touching head, of another infested individual. Research indicates that the normal classroom environment is not high risk for the spread of lice.

If a student appears symptomatic, a private and confidential lice screening may be performed by the district nurse, if available, or a trained staff member. When a child is found with live head lice or nits it is not necessary to send the child home early. Because a child with an active head lice infestation likely has had the infestation for one month or more by the time it is discovered and poses little risk to others, he or she may remain in class but be discouraged from close, direct head-to-head contact with others. The child's parent or guardian will be notified that day by telephone or with a letter sent home with the child stating that prompt, effective treatment is necessary. In some cases, effective treatment may require a prescription from the child's healthcare professional. Children with lice will ideally go home at the end of the school day, be treated, and return to class the next day. A referral to the district nurse may be made for children with recurrent or ongoing lice infestations.

Current evidence does not support the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of classroom or school-wide screenings for head lice to reduce the number of head lice infestations among school children. On occasion, if multiple students in the same classroom are found to have active cases of lice, a notice may be sent to parents/guardians of all students in that classroom instructing them to check their children for head lice for the next two weeks and treat appropriately. In accordance with FERPA/HIPPA, school officials may not disclose the name(s) or private health information of affected students.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 433.255](#)
[ORS 433.260](#)

[OAR 333-019-0010](#)
[OAR 437-002-0360](#)
[OAR 581-022-0705](#)