

District Procedure for Exclusion and Readmission of Students with Head Lice (Pediculosis Capitis)

The problem of head lice (pediculosis) is ongoing and can be time consuming. Even though head lice are not a threat to health, they are a frustrating nuisance. Prompt treatment of student(s) with a positive diagnosis of head lice ensures minimal disruption of their educational program.

Goals

1. To support families in their effort to control and eliminate head lice.
2. Maintain student privacy.
3. Decrease school absenteeism.

Exclusion Criteria

When a student is initially identified as having **live head lice**, the student is to be excluded from school at the end of the school day for treatment.

Screenings

1. All checks for head lice should be done in a confidential manner to respect the student's right to privacy and to avoid embarrassment.
2. If live lice is present, documentation of the visit and the notification call to the parent will be recorded in the Student Information System as a health room visit.
3. A follow up screening will be conducted once the student returns to school. The follow up screening results and any further action needed will be recorded in the Student Information System as a health room visit.

Readmission

After treatment at home, it is mandatory to return to school the next day via the health office, for inspection. Parents must be notified that students who return to school with live lice will be sent home. As such, parents are advised to accompany their child to school. Upon checking the head, if live lice are found, the student returns home with parent for treatment. If student has been treated and there are no live lice the child may return to class. We encourage the removal of nits, but the student may return to class if they have been treated even though nits are still present.

Recurrent Infestations

If a child has untreated or recurrent infestations, then the nurse and parent must work together to find the likely source of reinfestation and solve that problem by:

1. Education of parent using written materials and verbal instructions.
2. Referral to student's primary care doctor regarding pediculocide resistance.
3. Mechanical (manual) removal of all nits, although time consuming, is essential.
4. Assistance of community agencies or social service agencies, if appropriate, for assistance with infestation management.
5. Mass screening (school-wide or whole classrooms) is not an evidence-based practice in controlling head lice infestation/reinfestations. It is the responsibility of the parent to treat head lice infestation. Key to success in controlling head lice, with small chance of recurrence, is in the removal of all nits after the use of the pediculocide. Although students are allowed back to class with any reportedly treated hair when there are no live lice, encourage parents to continue removing nits until the problem is resolved.
6. Parents/guardians are encouraged to incorporate inspecting their student's hair as part of their regular hygiene routine. The School Attendance support specialists and team may intervene in cases of chronic infestations requiring repeated exclusions from school.

After School Programs and Overnight Field Trip considerations

Some outside facilities have head lice policy and procedures that are not in alignment with the Medford School District 549c Lice protocol. When a facility presents with requirements that are counter to our district's protocol, a Medford School District staff member will consult with that facility and advise them of our protocol.

For questions or more information, contact the school-site nurse.