

## **Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

**(Excludes students infested with live lice only; Allows attendance with nits.)**

Students found to have contracted head lice will be subject to the following procedures:

1. Suggested school measures for head lice control, as provided in *Communicable Disease*<sup>1</sup> issued through the Oregon Department of Education;
2. Periodic student head lice checks are not recommended. Screening recommendations are as follows:
  - a. Criteria for screening an individual for lice are: persistent itching or scratching, known exposure to sibling or other close contact with head lice (e.g., seat mate in classroom, locker partners, overnight sleep activities, scouts, etc.), self (student or parent) referral;
  - b. Three nonrelated cases of head lice in a classroom within 10 consecutive school days requires that all students in the classroom be screened by the following school day;
  - c. If there is infestation amount three percent of the entire student population within consecutive school days, there should be a screening of all students in the school within one week. Multiple cases from a single household count as one case for the purposes of calculating the percent of students infested.
3. As provided by OAR 333-019-0010, students found to have contracted head lice will be excluded from school at the discretion of the local school or health district. The presence of nits (lice eggs) only is not considered excludable;
4. Treatment information, district policy requirements and readmittance provisions will be provided to the parent. Parents will be advised to:
  - a. Use a lice-killing agent which their health-care provider, CARE RN or local health authority recommends on all family members who demonstrate symptoms of infestation;
  - b. Follow the personal and household cleaning instructions provided by the district, health-care provider or local health authority, as appropriate; and
  - c. Remove all nits after treatment.
5. Following treatment, the student will be readmitted to school;
6. Parents must accompany their student to school for readmittance;
7. The student will be subject to screening by designated personnel to determine the treatment's effectiveness. The student will be readmitted to school or denied admittance, as appropriate. The

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/commmdisease.pdf>

absence of nits is not required for readmittance. In the event the student is not readmitted to school, because of the continued presence of live lice, school staff will work to identify resources for parents who are unable to pay for proper treatment;

8. In the event additional assistance and/or information is needed regarding the treatment of the student, other family members, close contacts and the home environment (bedding, linens, grooming equipment, etc.), parents should contact their local health department;
9. Students with chronic head lice may be referred for follow-up with the CARE RN or the County nurse or local health department, as appropriate;
10. Parents who identify head lice on their students at home are to complete treatment prior to the readmission of their student, as required above. Parents are also encouraged to notify the school of their student's condition so that the appropriate preventative measures may be implemented at school;
11. In place at schools at all times is the standard classroom practice that hats, headwear, hair accessories, combs, and/or hairbrushes will not be shared by students;
12. When there are three or more nonrelated cases of head lice in a classroom within 10 consecutive days the following preventative and management procedures will be implemented until no head lice cases exist in the class:
  - a. All students will be screened for head lice;
  - b. School bags, coats, scarves and other personal items of all students will be wrapped in plastic bags before placed in the coat hook or locker area of the classroom;
  - c. Throw rugs, pillows and cushioned fabric chairs will be removed from the classroom;
  - d. The classroom carpet will be treated as appropriate.