

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Students may, subject to the provisions of this administrative regulation, be permitted to attend school with the presence of nits.

1. Definitions: Furnished by Clackamas County Health Department and the National Pediculosis Association.
 - a. “Head Lice” (Pediculosis Humanus Capitis): A tiny parasitic insect that lives, feeds and breeds only on the human head. Head lice are clear in color when hatched and quickly develop a reddish-brown color after feeding. Head lice are about the size of a sesame seed. They have six legs and are wingless. They do not hop, jump or fly.
 - b. “Nits”: Small, yellowish-white, oval shaped eggs that are “glued” to the hair shaft. Nits hatch within 7-10 days after being laid.
 - c. “Life cycle of head lice”: Once laid, it takes 7-10 days for a nit to hatch, and another 7-10 days for the female to mature and begin laying her own eggs. Head lice live for approximately 30 days on a host and a female louse may lay up to 100 nits (eggs).
 - d. “Treatment”: A three-step process that involves the use of a lice-killing agent, the removal of nits and an environmental clean up.
 - e. “Lice killing agent”: An approved chemical or herbal treatment manufactured and approved specifically for the killing of lice and nits. Because none of these agents are 100 percent effective, it is expected that the nits will be removed manually. It is important to remember that individuals react differently and that each product carries its own directions and precautions. Parents must read these directions and precautions carefully before using any product.
 - f. “Nit Removal”: Daily lice and nit combing for 2 weeks. Daily head checks for all family members are important and should continue until everyone has been clear of lice for 2-3 weeks.
 - g. “Environmental Clean up”: Vacuuming, ironing and laundering bedding and other items and following instructions in the information packet provided by the district.
2. School Procedure for Head Lice:
 - a. A student found to have live head lice will be sent home immediately. Parents will be given information on head lice treatment noted in a-g above.
 - b. Once the treatment process is completed the parent will bring the student to school and school staff will do a head check.
 - c. If this check shows no live lice the student may return to class. The student will continue to be combed at home as noted in 1.f.

- d. School staff will recheck the student in one week. If live lice are found, the student will be excluded from school until all lice and nits have been removed. The restriction may be removed after the parent provides a signed statement that a recognized treatment has been initiated.
3. If a student is found to have nits only, the student may return to class. Head lice information noted in 1.a-g above will be sent home with the student.
 - a. School staff will recheck the student in one week. If no live lice are present the student will be checked again the following week. If no live lice are found at that time no further checking will be required for this infestation.
 - b. If live lice are found at any of these checks the procedures noted in 2 will be initiated.
4. The school administrator may, when he/she has reasonable cause to believe the student has a pediculosis school restrictable disease, exclude that student from attendance until a physician, public health nurse or school nurse certifies that the student is not infectious to others.