

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

(Excludes a student with a severe infestation (with 10 or more live lice); allows attendance of a student with nits and less than 10 live lice.)

Suggested school measures for head lice control, as provided in *Communicable Disease*¹ issued through the Oregon Department of Education.

1. Periodic student head lice checks of students are not recommended however, screening recommendations are as follows:
 - a. Criteria for screening an individual for lice are:
 - (1) Persistent itching or scratching;
 - (2) Known exposure to sibling or other close contact with head lice (e.g., seat mate in classroom, locker partners, overnight sleep activities, scouts, etc); or
 - (3) 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 among three percent of the entire student population within 10 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 purposes of calculating the percentage of students infested.
2. Treatment information, district policy requirements and readmittance provisions will be provided to a parent. A parent will be advised to:
 - a. Use a lice-killing agent that a health care provider, school nurse or local health authority has recommended on all family members who demonstrate symptoms of infestation; and
 - b. Follow the personal and household cleaning instructions provided by the district, health-care provider or local health authority, as appropriate.
3. Following treatment, the student may be readmitted to school. A parent must either accompany their student to school for readmittance or provide a signed statement that treatment has been initiated;
4. 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;
5. A student who has been readmitted to school will be subject to follow-up screening by designated personnel;

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

6. The parent should contact their local health department 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 (e.g., bedding, linens, grooming equipment, etc.);
7. A student with chronic head lice may be referred for follow-up to the school's nurse or local health department, as appropriate;
8. A parent who identifies head lice on their student(s) at home should complete treatment prior to the readmission of their student, as required above. A parent is also encouraged to notify the school of their student's condition so that appropriate preventative measures may be implemented at school.