

Head Lice Procedural Guidelines

Excludes students infested with live lice. Allows attendance of students with nits.

1. Current evidence does not support classroom or schoolwide screening as a measure for decreasing the incidence of head lice among school age children. 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., overnight sleep activities, scouts, etc.), self (i.e., student or parent) referral.
2. As provided by Board policy, students found with live lice will be excluded from school and sent home with treatment instructions and resource information. Parents will be advised to:
 - a. Use a lice killing agent which their health care provider, district nurse or local health authority recommends on all family members who have symptoms of infestation.
 - b. Follow the personal and household cleaning instructions provided by the district, health care provider or local health authority.
 - c. Remove all nits after treatment.
 - d. Comb hair with a lice comb daily for seven days and until they no longer find live lice or eggs/nits.
 - e. Continue to check household members for signs of infestation on a regular basis.
3. Students will not be excluded from school if only nits are found. Parents will be notified and treatment information given.
4. Parents must either accompany their student to school for readmittance, or notify the school by phone or in writing that treatment has been initiated.
5. 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.
6. The following inspection schedule will be instituted if a head lice infestation is suspected:
 - a. First inspection
 - (1) If live lice are present the student will be sent home with a parent and will be excluded until all live lice have been removed.
 - (2) If nits only are present the student will return to class and be rechecked by school staff in one week
 - (3) Parents/guardians will be contacted and reminded to check for and remove any remaining nits daily.

b. Second inspection

- (1) If live lice are present the student will be excluded until all live lice have been removed.
- (2) If nits remain at this inspection, the student will be rechecked by school staff in one week.
- (3) Parents/guardians will be contacted and reminded to check for and remove any remaining nits daily.

c. Third inspection

- (1) If live lice are present the student will be excluded until all live lice and nits have been removed.
- (2) If no live lice are found at this inspection, the student will not be checked again unless another episode of infestation is reported.

7. Parents of students with chronic head lice, or those requiring additional assistance and/or information should contact their health care provider, local health department or the district nurse.
8. Parents who identify head lice on their student 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 preventative measures may be implemented at school as appropriate.
9. The schools will be provided a letter for teachers to send home when live lice are found, per building administrator's discretion. It is generally advised that if there are three cases of head lice in a classroom during a two week period, all parents in the classroom should be notified.
10. Schools will be encouraged to provide head lice education information at least twice per year in their newsletter (see attached sample newsletter post).
11. Educational information and resources will be available on the district's website under Health Services.
12. District nurses will not routinely check students, entire classrooms or schools for lice, but will be available to collaborate and support school staff on chronic or exceptional cases.