

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

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

1. 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., locker partners, overnight sleep activities), self (student or parent) referral;
 - b. Three nonrelated cases of head lice in a classroom within 10 consecutive days indicates that all children in the classroom be screened;
 - c. If there is infestation among three percent of the entire student population within 10 consecutive 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 percent of students infested.
2. Students found to have head lice will be excluded from school at the discretion of the district nurse or designee. The presence of only nits (lice eggs) is not considered excludable.
3. Treatment information, district policy requirements and re-admittance provisions will be provided to the parent. Parents will be advised to:
 - a. Use a treatment that is consistent with the recommendations of their health-care provider or local health authority for all family members who demonstrate symptoms of infestation;
 - b. Follow the personal and household cleaning instructions provided by the health-care provider of local health authority, as appropriate;
 - c. Strongly encouraged to remove all nits after treatment.
4. Following treatment, the student will be returned to school;
5. Parents must either accompany their student to school upon return, phone the office staff, or provide a signed statement that treatment has been initiated;
6. The absence of nits is not required for re-admittance. In the event the student is not re-admitted to school because of the continued presence of live lice, parents will be notified.
7. Students returning to school will be subject to follow-up screening by designated personnel;
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 contract their local health department, or district nurse;

9. Students with chronic head lice may be referred for follow-up to the district's nurse or local health department, as appropriate;
10. At the discretion of the district nurse, a student with chronic head lice may be required to be nit free prior to return to school.
11. The Board recognizes that it is critical to promptly treat students, allowing them to return to class as soon as possible, thus avoiding the negative impact of extended absences.