

561 Bagley School District Head Lice/No Viable Nit Policy

Board Adopted: December 18, 2016

Board Revised: February 21, 2023

Board Reviewed: August 31, 2026

Head lice can be a recurring problem each school year. When necessary, the school will have head checks. When lice are initially detected, that student's classroom will be checked for lice as well as any siblings of that student. Classrooms will be checked as time and staffing permits. If lice is not found a letter will be sent home letting parent know that the classroom was checked and no lice was found. If lice was found a letter will be sent home with the students informing parents. If the classroom is not checked due to time constraints a letter will be sent home instructing parents to check their child. The letter will have instructions on how to check your child for lice and viable nits. There are parent resources located on the School District Website at www.bagley.k12.mn.us under the heading "Department" and pull-down menu to "Health Services".

The school does maintain a "no viable nit" policy and it is strictly enforced. This means that all viable nits, those cemented to hair shafts, very close to scalp, must be removed from the hair before a student may be allowed back to school. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses strongly advocate, nits that are more than ¼ inch from the scalp are usually NOT viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or in fact may be empty shells, also known as 'casings'.

We expect that most families with students who have had head lice will be able to return to school by the following day with proper treatment. Students who do not return to school the following day, must have a parent/guardian call the School Health Office at (218) 694-6528 ext. 3215, of progress or that student will have an unexcused absence for that day. Extended absences beyond 48 hours or 2 school days without parent/guardian contacting the principal's office at (218) 694-6528, will be recorded as unexcused. For more information on how to get rid of head lice call the Clearwater County Nursing Service at (218) 694-6581.

When the school's health paraprofessional notifies parent/guardian that a child has head lice/or viable nits, the following procedure will ensure that children are receiving assistance in a timely and appropriate manner: Students will advance to the next step if they have a new incident of lice or if upon recheck a significant number of viable nits are found. Bagley Schools will follow the attendance policy when absences due to head lice or viable nits become habitual.

Step One-First Reported Case:

- The child will remain in or return to class.
- The school health paraprofessional will:
 - Notify the parent/guardian
 - Notify Principal or Dean of Students.
 - Notify the classroom teacher and provide teacher with parent letters to send home.
 - Notify the Transportation Director, if needed.
 - Will perform a follow-up re-check on child.
- Treatment supplies may be available through your health care providers, or the pharmacy.
- When treatment of the child is complete, they should return to Bagley Schools accompanied by a parent/guardian for a rescreen by the school health paraprofessional. If no viable nits or lice are found, the child will be readmitted to school.

Step Two-Second Reported Case:

- The child will remain in or return to class.
- The school health paraprofessional will:
 - Notify the parent/guardian
 - Notify Principal or Dean of Students.
 - Notify the classroom teacher
 - Notify the Transportation Director, if needed.
 - Will perform a follow-up re-check on child.
- Treatment supplies may be available through your health care providers, or the pharmacy.
- When treatment of the child is complete, they should return to Bagley Schools accompanied by a parent/guardian for a rescreen by the school health paraprofessional. If no viable nits or lice are found, the child will be readmitted to school.

Step Three-Third Reported Case:

- The child will remain in or return to class.
- The school health paraprofessional will:
 - Notify the parent/guardian
 - Notify Principal or Dean of Students.
 - Notify the classroom teacher
 - Notify the Transportation Director, if needed.
 - Refers case to the Community Health Representative or Clearwater County Nursing Service.
 - Will perform a follow-up re-check on child.
- Treatment supplies may be available through your health care providers, or the pharmacy.
- When treatment of the child is complete, they should return to Bagley Schools accompanied by a parent/guardian for a rescreen by the school health paraprofessional. If no viable nits or lice are found, the child will be readmitted to school.

Step Four-Fourth Reported Case:

- The child will remain in or return to class.
- The school health paraprofessional will:
 - Notify the parent/guardian
 - Notify Principal or Dean of Students.
 - Notify the classroom teacher
 - Notify the Transportation Director, if needed.
 - Refers case to the Community Health Representative or Clearwater County Nursing Service.
 - Will perform a follow-up re-check on child.
- Treatment supplies may be available through your health care providers, or the pharmacy.
- When treatment of the child is complete, they should return to Bagley Schools accompanied by a parent/guardian for a rescreen by the school health paraprofessional. If no viable nits or lice are found, the child will be readmitted to school.
- Administration will sign off upon treatment completion and return to school.

Step Five-Fifth Reported Case:

- The child will remain in or return to class.

- The school health paraprofessional will:
 - Notify the parent/guardian
 - Notify Principal or Dean of Students.
 - Notify the classroom teacher.
 - Notify the Transportation Director, if needed.
 - Refers case to the Community Health Representative or Clearwater County Nursing Service.
 - Will perform a follow-up re-check on child.
- Treatment supplies may be available through your health care providers, or the pharmacy.
- When treatment of the child is complete, they should return to Bagley Schools accompanied by a parent/guardian for a rescreen by the school health paraprofessional. If no viable nits or lice are found, the child will be readmitted to school.
- Administration will sign off upon treatment completion and return to school.

Note: Students will be checked on a weekly basis following their third and subsequent reported cases. If they are head lice and nit free, they will return to being checked only with the regular student body checks.