

Head Lice and Information

Pediculosis is an infestation of head lice, not an infection. It does not pose a significant health hazard and is not known to spread disease. Students found to be infested with head lice are excluded from school and are required to receive suitable treatment at home immediately. Children identified with head lice are sent home with the parent, if possible. Children who cannot be sent home due to inability to reach a parent or authorized designee, or those whose parents are unable to come to school to pick them up may remain in school that day with restrictions on activities that require close personal contact. The school nurse or designated personnel has the responsibility to communicate with other schools where siblings or other close contacts of the infested person attend.

A child may return to school to be checked by the school nurse or designated personnel the morning after initial treatment or when the parent feels the child has been adequately treated if the following conditions are met:

- A parent or authorized designee must accompany the child. The child is not permitted to ride the school bus to school that day.
- The parent/designee must wait until the checkup is completed.
- The child is live lice and nit free.
- The parent must show an obvious attempt to remove the majority of nits. Nits that are present are acceptable but if it takes longer than ten minutes to remove nits from hair, the student will be sent home to remove the excessive nits.
- When it is obvious that the parent has made significant progress in the treatment process, the child does not have live lice and the child has missed a significant number of school days because of lice infestation, the child may be readmitted at the discretion of the school nurse. Advice on treatment is again given to the parent and the importance of nit removal is stressed. The nurse will require that the child be seen again the following school morning to monitor that progress in nit removal has been made. The child will continue to be monitored as needed.

Students may be excused from school a maximum of five (5) consecutive days (inclusive of weekend days) for treatment of head lice.

In case of chronic, repeated infestations, the child may be rechecked as often as needed at the discretion of the school nurse or building administrator.

When several cases of live head lice are identified in the same classroom, all students in that classroom are screened.