

Head Lice

To better manage and limit the spread of head lice infestations, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee. The school nurse or designee shall examine the student. An infestation shall be determined by looking closely through the hair and on the scalp for viable nits or live lice.

If nits are found but there are no live (crawling) lice on the hair or scalp, the parent will be notified and provided with information about treating head lice. The school nurse or designee shall reexamine the student within 7–10 school days.

If live (crawling) lice are found on the hair or scalp, the parent/guardian shall be immediately notified. The parent/guardian shall be provided information on the biology of head lice, methods of eliminating the infestation, and directions to examine household contacts for lice and nits.

Parents/guardians of students with live head lice shall be required to verify treatment as soon as possible after notification, and before the student is returned to school. If the parent/guardian is unable to afford treatment, the student will be referred to the Health Programs office.

Affected students shall be discouraged from direct head-to-head contact with other students. Students identified with live lice may complete the school day, but may not return to school until the parent/guardian verifies that the lice have been treated. The school nurse or designee shall provide in-service education to staff regarding how to manage head lice and/or nits in the classroom.

The school nurse or designee shall notify parents/guardians in the affected classroom to encourage them to check their children and to treat, if appropriate, and/or examine others who may have had direct head-to-head contact with the affected child. Staff shall notify parents/guardians of affected classrooms as often as needed to attempt to prevent the spread of lice.

Information about head lice shall be sent home to all parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year.

Additionally, information about head lice shall be available in the school office in a manner and location convenient to parent access.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

Adopted: August 16, 2007

Revised: August 21 2008