

Procedure and Accountability For Head Lice

Updated 2021.

1. As a prevention measure the school nurse will screen all elementary students with a routine head lice check at the beginning of each school year in September. Students will be informed of the procedure in checking their head/hair with an explanation of facts about head lice and how to prevent it.
2. Middle School and High School Students will be screened by the school nurse upon their personal request due to signs of head lice or symptoms of itching. All teachers may contact the school nurse on a daily basis for random head lice checks, if a child has signs of head lice or is symptomatic with itching.
3. The student will sit by a good light source. Inform the student you will be checking the top of their head, around each ear, and then to put their head down and pull their hair up over their head to expose the neck area. Wear plastic gloves and use a screening stick to check for; **blackish circular dots tightly attached to the scalp that are freshly laid eggs, whitish circular dots that are hatched eggs/shells, which are glued to the hair strand, various stages of soon to be hatched live lice that are in translucent birthing sacs glued to the hair strands and that are visible to the eye or can be seen microscopically. Various sizes of live lice can be seen in their different stages of; first and second stage of a baby nymph, third stage of a nymph, and adult louse.** If lice are found, remove them with clear tape and put in an envelope to show the parents/guardians, so that they know what to look for when taking the child home for treatment.
4. If a student is infested with the black eggs/nits, white egg shells or live lice, the nurse notifies the parents/guardians with a phone call to pick up the student and take them home for treatment. Reassure the students and family they will be fine with treatments of special shampoos, combs, and cleaning methods to prevent the spread of eggs and lice. Advise the parents/guardians that the student may return to school the day after their treatment and will be rechecked by the school nurse.
5. Send written information on head lice treatment and prevention home with the parents/guardians. Encourage thorough cleaning of the home. In chronic cases, encourage parents/guardians to discuss appropriate treatment with their family physician or professional head lice treatment services.
6. The classroom teacher will be notified when a head lice case has been suspected, reported, or found. The school nurse will check all the students in this classroom and their siblings who are also students. The school nurse will notify the superintendent, principal, classroom teacher, bus driver, cleaning staff, and coaches if the student is in any sports activities.

7. Inform the student and parents/guardians that when the student returns to school, the school nurse will continue to check the student's head frequently over the next 4 weeks. The student will be allowed to stay in school as long as no eggs, nymphs or live lice are found. If eggs, nymphs or live lice are found, the student will be sent home for further and repeated treatment. Parents or guardians will be advised to check the student's head twice daily and repeat the treatment until there are no recurring eggs, nymphs or head lice.

8. The school nurse will continue to check students in the classroom once per week for a month after the noted infestation.

9. A letter will be sent home to all of the classroom parents/guardians if 2 or more unrelated students in the same classroom have head lice infestation.

10. If families need advice to purchase treatment supplies they may contact the school nurse or school office personnel.

Guidelines for Prevention Measures

1. All hats and coats should be stored separately in lockers. If lockers are not available, they can be kept in a plastic bag if needed to help prevent head lice from being spread to hats/coats of other students.

2. Carpets, rugs, furniture, and vehicles should be vacuumed thoroughly.

3. All bedding and stuffed animals should be washed and dried in a dryer or if not washable should be sealed in a plastic trash bag for 2 weeks.

Images:

Photo 1- Freshly laid **black** lice egg on hair shaft/scalp and freshly hatched **white** egg shell on hair shaft



Photo 2- How to Spot Head Lice.

Images provided by *Lice Avengers, LLC*.

Head Lice Life Cycle


Viable Egg

Egg will hatch in 7-10 days

Toa 1st Stage

Baby Nymph

Nymphs grow & will mature into adults in 7-10 days



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2nd Stage

Baby Nymph

3rd Stage

Nymph

Adult Louse

Bite marks

How to Spot Head Lice

