

Lice in the School Setting: Procedure

The School Nurse will:

- Check a student's head for lice if he/she is demonstrating symptoms.
- If live lice are found, a parent or guardian will be contacted. Students may be sent home at the nurse's discretion. The parent/guardian may take the student home if they choose.
 - Students diagnosed with live head lice should be discouraged from close direct head contact with others; however they should not be removed from the classroom^{1,2,3}.
 - There are many treatment options; however the school district strongly encourages that Nix or Rid be used to treat for lice as it works the best^{2,4,5}.
 - Re-admittance to the classroom the next day if no treatment or insufficient treatment has been given is the school nurse's decision.
 - Students with nits-only should not be sent home from school, they should be monitored for signs of re-infestation¹.
 - Notification letters will only be sent home to alert parents if a high percentage of children in a classroom are found with lice^{1,2}.
- Educate school staff regarding head lice causes, treatment and common misconceptions such as:
 - Getting head lice is not related to cleanliness of the person and/or his/her environment⁵.
 - Head lice are mainly spread by direct contact with the hair of an infested person^{1,2,3,4,5}.
 - Head lice are not known to transmit disease^{1,4,5}.
 - Head lice move by crawling, not hopping or flying^{2,4,5}.
 - Classroom checks will no longer be done unless the nurse finds it necessary, mass screenings for lice have not been shown to decrease incidences of head lice in school community¹.

References:

1. <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statement/s/ps-head-lice>
2. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/135/5/e1355>
3. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/from-insects-animals/Pages/How-to-Help-Prevent-and-Control-the-Spread-of-Head-Lice.aspx>
4. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/from-insects-animals/Pages/Signs-of-Lice.aspx>
5. <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/>