

Head Lice Procedures

Definition: Head lice or *pediculus capitis* is a parasite that lives on the scalp of affected people, and is transmitted by direct contact or sharing contaminated items.

I. Purpose

Control the spread of lice to other students and staff in schools.

II. Teacher

- Send student to school nurse at any time head lice is suspected.
- Keep all information regarding who has head lice confidential.
- Only discuss the student who has head lice with the parent or school nurse.
- Protect the privacy of the student with head lice so that no other students are aware.

III. School Nurse

- Check the student's head for nits and bugs in a confidential manner.
- Document on ***Head Lice Log***.
- Notify parents to come and pick up the student if he/she has live lice or bugs.
- Send letter home to parent if no live lice and only nits are observed.
- Contact parents if nits are brown; encourage parent to check child, and retreat hair after 7 days and/or pick out nits as needed.
- Contact parents if nits are clear (white), and explain the process of pulling nits out of the child's hair at home.
- Check all students in the same classroom if requested to do. Identification of students with head lice should be in a very confidential manner and as discreetly as possible without other students knowing who has head lice.
- Give the student and/or parent the ***Head Lice Information for Parents*** explaining the treatment of head lice.
- Inform parent/guardian that the student may not ride the bus the next day and must be brought back to school by an adult. The child's head will be rechecked by trained personnel and cleared to return to class.
- Recheck student's hair seven (7) days after the student has been cleared of head lice. Document all information and checks in the ***Head Lice Log***.

IV. Parent

- Keep contact information up to date in the office.
- Pick up child at school nurse's request.
- Bring child back to school the following day to be rechecked and cleared in order to return to class.
- Treat child, house and vehicle with the recommended head lice treatment.
- Provide proof of treatment to school nurse.
- Provide the child with transportation to school until cleared by school nurse.