

In keeping with the Buchanan County R4 School District's policy of avoiding the unnecessary exclusion of students from school, the district will not exclude otherwise healthy students from school due to nit infestations. Students with head lice infestations will be excluded from school only to the minimum extent necessary for treatment. To avoid the unnecessary exclusion of students from school, the administration provides the following procedure:

1. If the school nurse or other designated personnel discovers head lice or nits on a student, the parent/guardian of that student will be notified, and other students who reside with the infected student will also be checked. Students found to have live head lice will be sent home for treatment and removal of head lice.
2. The school nurse will instruct the parent/guardian regarding appropriate treatment options that may be used to eliminate head lice and/or nits. The school nurse will also give information concerning necessary procedures to be taken in the home to ensure that the head lice are eliminated.
3. If the student was infected with live head lice, the student should not return to school until the following school day after the discovery of the head lice to allow for treatment.
4. When a student returns to school who had a live head lice infestation and has received treatment, the student will be examined by the school nurse. If live head lice are found at that time, the parent/guardian will be notified and reinstructed concerning treatment. The student will be excluded from school until the following day to allow for additional treatment.
5. When an examination reveals "nits only" (and the nits are greater than ¼ inch from the scalp), the student may stay in the school setting. Parents will be notified regarding the presence of "old" nits and removal of the nits is needed, thus making it easier to monitor for re-infestation.
6. The school nurse will keep accurate and confidential records of students infected with head lice or nits.