

**Maryville City Schools**  
**Health Services**  
**Head Lice Procedure**

Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

Routine education of all parents regarding the identification and management of head lice is helpful. The most effective screening is done by a parent. Once live lice are discovered at school, the student will go to the school clinic and the parent will then be contacted by phone. School nurse/designee will discuss treatment options and provide resources. The appropriate Head Lice Information letter should be sent home with the student. In accordance with FERPA/HIPAA school officials may not disclose to any other student, parent, or guardian the name(s) or private health information of affected students.

**Nurse Responsibilities**

- Assist in identification of lice and/or nits.
- Provide education and educational materials as needed to school personnel, students, and families.
- Discuss treatment options and prevention of reinfestation with the family.
- Coordinate with Family Resource Center staff regarding tracking students with confirmed cases of lice. After three documented clinic visits within the semester or school year, refer to the Family Resource Center via email. After two additional documented clinic visits, refer again to the Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center will then refer to the Department of Children Services' Assistance Program to further assist the family.