

Stoughton Area School District

Procedures for the Control and Prevention of Head Lice

The following procedures reflect best practice based on current evidence and recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Association of School Nurses, American Academy of Pediatrics, and SASD medical advisor, Dr. Thomas Murwin.

If the student is found to have live head lice:

1. The parent/guardian will be contacted. The student shall be allowed to remain in school. Parents will receive information on the treatment of head lice.
2. Although there is no medical reason to remove the student from school due to head lice, the student's parent/guardian may choose to take the student home before the end of the school day. In addition, based on individual circumstances and consultation with the district nurse and the administrator, the parent/guardian may be asked to take the student home for treatment before the end of the school day.
3. After the student returns to school, parents are asked to supply documentation of treatment for head lice. This documentation may include a note from the parent stating the treatment used, treatment product bottle or label, receipt or other form of appropriate documentation.
4. Student will be re-inspected by the designated health staff upon return to school and periodically as needed.
5. Parents/guardians are encouraged to remove nits but students will be allowed to stay in school as "no-nit" policies are not recommended.
6. Students should not miss more than one day of school following detection of head lice.

Screening:

1. Current evidence does not support routine classroom or school-wide screening.
2. At the discretion of designated health staff, household contacts of students with head lice may be screened in an effort to control head lice.
3. Students may be screened, if appropriate, by parent/guardian or staff member request.

Education:

1. Head lice information shall be available upon request.
2. Parents/guardians shall receive information about head lice each school year.

Confidentiality:

1. Information regarding cases of head lice shall remain confidential.
2. Privacy will be maintained when inspecting students for head lice.

Documentation:

1. Designated health staff will maintain appropriate documentation of cases of head lice.

Notification:

1. Parents/Guardians will be notified if there are 2 or more cases (from different households) in a classroom at the same time.
2. To maintain confidentiality, the notification will be done per grade level or school wide.
3. Prior to notification, consult with the district nurse and the building administrator. District nurse will provide letter to be used for notification.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). Head Lice Information for Schools.
Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>.

Frankowski, Barbara L., Bocchini, Jr., Joseph A., and Council on School Health and Committee on Infectious Diseases. (2010). *Pediatrics*, 126 (2), 392-403. Retrieved from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/2/392.full.html>.

National Association of School Nurses. (2011). Pediculosis Management in the School Setting.
Retrieved from <http://www.nasn.org>

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