

Peninsula School District

PROTOCOL FOR MANAGEMENT OF HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

Care of the Student

1. If a student is found to have live head lice (Pediculosis) at school, the parent/guardian will be contacted and may choose to pick up their student to foster comfort, privacy and enable treatment to be initiated. A student with live head lice may remain in class and go home at the end of the school day, be treated, and return to school after the appropriate treatment has begun.
2. Maintain and support confidentiality and dignity for the student.
3. If only nits (eggs) are found in a child's hair, an initial contact may be made with the parent/guardian to discuss appropriate care.
4. The "Dear Parent/Guardian" letter will be sent home with the affected student. The letter asks the parent/guardian to complete the "PARENT/GUARDIAN REPORT TO SCHOOL-HEAD LICE TREATMENT" and return it with their child after treatment. "Head Lice Information for Parents" may also be sent home with the child.
5. Document head lice case on the "HEAD LICE TRACKING LOG". Shred document at end of school year.
6. Student will be checked when returning to school and may be checked periodically at school.
7. Siblings or other close contacts of affected students may be checked.
8. The parent/guardian should be encouraged to do daily checks for two weeks and repeat treatment in 10-14 days (follow instructions on product used).
9. Refer student to a licensed health care provider for recurring cases or if a secondary infection is suspected.

School Prevention and Education

1. When head lice is identified, the classroom teacher may be given the "Head Lice Information for School Staff". Student confidentiality and dignity must be maintained.
2. Close student head to head contact will be avoided. Upholstered furniture is not advised in classrooms. Discourage shared hats, scarves, combs, and coats. Students with long hair are encouraged to wear it up.
3. The custodian may be informed of a case in a classroom to ensure thorough vacuuming. The use of chemical sprays to treat the environment within the school setting is not recommended because of toxicity and lack of effectiveness.
4. Notify principal of classroom outbreaks of three or more students without close contact except at school within a consecutive two week period of time or repeated infestations of individual students. Classroom screening for head lice has not been proven to have a significant effect on the incidence of head lice in a school community.
5. The "Head Lice Information for Parents" may be distributed to parents as indicated.
6. The "Newsletter Article Heads Up For Head Lice" will be published periodically.
7. Parents are encouraged to notify health room staff if their student has head lice. Teachers will refer parents to health room staff if their students have head lice.
8. Any symptomatic student will be sent to the health room for a head lice screening.