



Head Lice Management Procedure

Screening Guidelines:

- School nurses will screen students for lice on an individual student basis. Privacy shall be maintained to avoid embarrassment.
- Entire classroom screenings, campus-wide assessments and “routine” screenings are generally not productive and result in a potential loss of privacy, and decreased instructional time. Therefore, this screening process will not be routinely used. A group screening may be performed on occasion at the request of the campus principal when there is concern of an infestation in either a classroom or a specific grade. Parent permission is not needed to examine a student for possible head lice. Head lice are a common nuisance, and every effort should be made to avoid the spread of the condition.
- Referral for screening is based on these common symptoms.
 - Frequent scratching of the head and/or back of neck
 - Student stating that their head is itching
 - Pink/red marks on the scalp and/ or back of neck
 - Unexplainable sores and/or scabs on the scalp/back of the neck
 - Yellowish white or brown nits (egg sacks) attached to strands of hair that can't be washed out or flicked off
 - White to gray crawling bugs in the hair about the size of sesame seeds
- The school nurse may examine siblings attending the same campus of a student with pediculosis.

Parent/Guardian Notification:

- Head lice is very common among children. Although not an illness or a disease, it spreads easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, nap time, and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones.

The district does not require or recommend that students be removed from school because of lice or nits.

If careful observation indicates that a student has head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent to discuss a treatment plan using an FDA-approved medicated shampoo or cream rinse that may be purchased from any drug or grocery store. After the student undergoes one treatment, the parent should contact the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments, how best to get rid of lice, and how to prevent lice from returning.

The district will provide notice to parents of elementary school students in an affected classroom without identifying the student with lice.



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More information on head lice can be obtained from the DSHS website [Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home](#). [See policy FFAA for more information.]

- Active head lice are indicated by the presence of live lice anywhere on the head. Students with nits (egg sacks) down the hair shaft, as determined by the campus nurse; **will not** be excluded from school. These egg sacks are empty and are of no risk to the student or others.
- If a student with lice is found at the elementary level, a classroom notification letter will be sent home to the parent of each child assigned to the same homeroom class as the child with lice, no later than the fifth school day after the date on which the administrator or nurse, as applicable, determines or becomes aware of the lice occurrence.

Excessive Absences:

- Although time-intensive, the recommended treatments for head lice are relatively easy to perform and the initial treatment can usually be performed within a day. Excessive absences due to head lice will be subject to the Texas Compulsory Attendance laws. Each initial exclusion from school will be excused however, any absences due to lice thereafter will be considered unexcused.