



## **Tolar ISD Head Lice Management Procedure**

**TISD Board Approved: March 1, 2023**

### **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 with the finger
  - White to gray crawling forms in the hair about the size of sesame seeds

### **Parent/Guardian Notification:**

- 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
- A parent or guardian of a student with active lice shall be notified and the student will be sent home for a treatment.
- When an elementary student is found to have active head lice, a general information letter will be sent out to parents/guardians of students in that classroom within 5 days.

**Exclusion Protocol:**

- Our exclusion protocol is designed to protect the integrity of the school day, and to minimize embarrassment and unnecessary isolation of students with head lice. Students who have evidence of active head lice will be sent home from school so that treatment may begin as quickly as possible. The nurse shall provide the student's parent/guardian information regarding appropriate treatment and prevention of head lice transmission.

**Readmission Criteria:** Students who have been excluded from school for lice shall be readmitted the following day to school upon:

- Examination by the school nurse prior to readmission to the classroom. Parents need to accompany their child to the clinic prior to readmission and be present during that examination. The nurse will assess the efficacy of treatment and will readmit the student to the classroom when no signs of live lice are present.

**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.

**CDC Treatment Guidelines:** <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>

**TISD Board Policy:** FFAA (Local)

## **What You Need To Know About Head Lice in School**

### **What Are Head Lice?**

- Head lice are tiny gray to brown insects about the size of a sesame seed that live in human hair and must feed on human blood to survive.
- They lay tiny white oval-shaped eggs about the size of a knot in a thread, called nits, that attach to strands of hair close to the scalp. Although it's hard to see head lice, you can see the nits if you look closely.
- Nits are most often found in the hair behind the ears and at the back of the head and neck. The first sign of lice is itching of the head, which is caused by the bite of the head lice.
- Head lice do not spread disease.

### **How Do You Get Head Lice?**

- Any child can get head lice.
- Head lice happen mostly with elementary school-aged children.
- Children get lice from other children through head to head contact during play or sports or nap time, and most often in school settings.
- Sharing combs, brushes, hair accessories, hats, or lockers can spread head lice.
- You can't spread nits...only live lice.

### **How Do You Get Rid of Head Lice?**

- Use an over-the-counter FDA-approved shampoo treatment found at drug and grocery stores. Follow directions on the package exactly.
- Soak all combs and brushes in very hot water for about 1 hour.
- Wash sheets, blankets and other bedding in hot water
- Seal stuffed animals in a plastic bag for 1 week.
- Vacuum carpets, furniture and mattresses thoroughly.
- Re-treat hair again in 7 days.

### **If You Suspect a Child in Your Classroom Has Lice**

- Have the child checked by the school nurse
- Follow your school/district policies regarding head lice
- Educate children on avoiding activities that may spread head lice...remind them not to share combs, brushes, hair accessories, headphones, hats, clothing, bedding, etc.