

Pearland ISD Health Services Head Lice FAQ's

1. *Will I be notified if a student in my child's classroom has head lice?*

Written or electronic notification will be sent to the parents of elementary school students in affected classrooms within five school days of the school determining a child in the classroom has head lice. Due to privacy requirements, student name(s) or anything that may identify the affected student(s) will not be shared.

2. *Why doesn't the school nurse do a classroom check when it is known that a student has head lice?*

According to the CDC, current evidence does not support the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of classroom or school-wide screening for decreasing the incidence of head lice among children. Head lice is not a reportable communicable disease. Rather it is considered a "pest."

3. *Why doesn't the District recognize what a problem head lice is for families?*

The District does recognize head lice is an inconvenience for our families and that eradication is very time consuming and can be costly. The District's nurses work with families to ease the burden of treating this "pest". It is important that parents routinely check their children, especially after slumber parties. This will allow parents to respond to the problem and begin treatment, before an "infestation" develops.

4. *So what can I as a parent do to protect my family from getting head lice?*

You can get in the habit of checking the heads of your children every week as well as before and after slumber parties. You can also encourage your children with long hair to wear it "contained" (braids, pony-tails, buns). This helps prevent your child's hair inadvertently touching the hair of other students. Finally, remind your children not to share combs, brushes, hats, coats or clothing.

5. *If my child gets head lice, should I use one of the businesses that "guarantee" head lice eradication?*

The District does not recommend any particular business or brand for the treatment of head lice. However, parents should be aware that some business that "guarantee" head lice eradication do not follow Public Health, CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines, or current medical or scientific research. The District encourages parents to research carefully or consult with their physician when selecting the head lice treatment regimen best suited for their family.

Helpful links:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html>

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>