

PEDICULOSIS POLICY

Statement

The Lyon County School District has a responsibility to provide a healthy and safe learning environment for all its students. When circumstances arise that may compromise the health or safety of the students, it is the responsibility of the staff to address those issues as effectively as possible, based on the best information, practice, and research currently available.

It is imperative that confidentiality and privacy are provided to all students at all times. The school health office will be notified of a possible infestation. Parent/guardian will be notified when live lice and/or viable nits are present. A student with live head lice should be sent home. Student may be allowed to ride the bus home when alternative methods of transportation have been exhausted.

The student's hair should be rechecked when returning to school after initial treatment. The student should be rechecked again in 7-10 days for live lice or viable nits and effectiveness of treatment.

Student does not have to be "nit free" to return to school initially. "No nit" policies that require a child to be free of nits before returning to school lack evidence of being effective, result in unnecessary absenteeism (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015).

- Many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp. Such nits are usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as 'casings'.
- Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.
- The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.
- Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.

Repeated infestations must be brought to the attention of the school health staff. Repeated infestations are those that are detected at school. Students with problematic cases may need to be checked on a regular basis to ensure eradication.

The District Chief Nurse may implement a "No nit" restriction after repeated infestations.

PROCEDURES

Identification

The school staff typically becomes aware of the possibility of the presence of lice through a variety of sources. If a student is reported to have, or is suspected of having pediculosis, he/she should be examined by a trained staff member to verify his/her condition. If the student is found to have pediculosis, the following procedures must be implemented.

Procedures for verified cases of pediculosis

- A trained staff member will examine siblings and other students who, at the discretion of the staff member, have had close contact with the student who is affected. Contacts with students in other schools and attendance areas should be considered.
- The parent/legal guardian of the student(s) with pediculosis will be notified that the condition has been verified and that the student(s) will have to be excluded from school until completion of an effective treatment. Information about effective treatment procedures and the standards for re-admittance to school will be provided to the parent/legal guardian at this time. The school health staff assigned to the school will be notified of all verified cases of pediculosis.
- Following treatment, a parent or responsible adult should bring the child to the school to be examined by a trained staff member for verification that all lice and lice eggs have been removed. The parent or responsible adult should be present during the examination.

Procedures for multiple or large scale infestations

If, in the course of verifying reports of pediculosis, three or more students in a particular group are found to be effected, the procedures listed below must be implemented:

- All members of the identified group should be examined for pediculosis in a manner which ensures student privacy. Examples of a group could include, but not be limited to:
 - => a classroom
 - => an athletic team
 - => school club or organization
- Using an approved form, the parents of all the students in the identified group will be notified of the verification of pediculosis cases. The forms are to include information on pediculosis symptoms, treatment, and prevention.

Community education procedures

The district should establish partnerships with local family assistance agencies, pharmacies, service clubs and health professionals to aid families affected by pediculosis. Also, the district will develop pamphlets and/or brochures that each school should send home to parents yearly on the following topics regarding pediculosis:

**LYON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD POLICY**

JHE

- The district's pediculosis policy and procedures.
- Prevention, identification, and treatment of pediculosis.

Policy #JHE
Revised 9/25/18