



## Procedure for Head Lice

Cases of head lice will be managed according to the Infectious Disease Control Guidelines from OSPI and the Washington Department of Health. Additional information for this procedure was obtained from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses. The following procedures have been written to help minimize and control the spread of head lice in a school setting.

### **Procedure for prevention of head lice infestation:**

1. Health aide to send home parent lice prevention letter in October and March.
2. Health aide to place classroom lice prevention checklist in teacher's mail boxes in October and March.

### **Procedure for identification of head lice cases:**

1. Any concern, reports, or requests regarding head lice need to be reported to the School Nurse (SN) or Health Aide (HA).
2. When parents call to report head lice, the school nurse or health aide should be notified.
3. The school nurse or health aide will do all paper work and parent contact.
4. Follow-up checks will be done by school health aide.
  - a. Health Aide will follow up with parent 3 days following identification of head lice.
  - b. Health Aide will call student to health room for lice check at 2 week follow up.
  - c. Health Aide will notify school nurse of persistent head lice cases and/or families in need of resources.

### **Process for when new cases are identified:**

1. Per OSPI guidelines, students identified as having active head lice are no longer required to be excluded from school. Students may remain at school. The American Academy of Pediatrics states that a child identified as having an active head lice infestation has probably had the infestation for a month or longer (2015).
2. Close contact with other students will be discouraged.
3. All students identified as having lice will be given a letter notifying parents that head lice has been identified and that treatment is necessary. Parents should be contacted by phone to notify them that their child was identified as having lice. If contacted, student pick-up is recommended, but not required.

### **Process for assisting students who are chronically/repeatedly infested:**

1. Complete a home visit to review proper treatment strategies.
2. Students should be checked weekly by nurse or health aide to monitor status of infestation.
  - a. Referral to Family Services for treatment support (ie. vacuum cleaner)
3. Referral to primary care provider for possible resistant cases.

**It is important for all staff to remember that the student's confidentiality, privacy and self-esteem are of the utmost importance.**