

## **453.62 - SCREENING FOR HEAD LICE**

School officials, parents, and community members must understand that head lice do not spread disease, pets do not spread head lice and head lice are not an indication of poor personal hygiene or living in an unclean environment as anyone can get head lice.

Lice: Tiny grey to brown insects about the size of a sesame seed that live in human hair and feed on human blood to survive. Lice do not fly or jump, but crawl quickly with head to head contact. Without a human host they can only live for about one day.

Nits: Tiny white oval-shaped louse eggs about the size of a knot in a thread attached to strands of hair.

Any student suspected of having head lice through demonstration of symptoms or close contact (head to head) with another person who has had an infestation of head lice, shall be checked by the Health Care Coordinator or designee.

### **SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURE**

If a student shows signs of possible head lice, such as scratching excessively, they will be screened for head lice by the Health Care Coordinator or designee to determine if they have head lice.

Students with live lice will be allowed to remain in the classroom until the end of the day, but should be discouraged from close head-to-head contact with other students. In rare situations a student may be sent home. Sending a student home is determined on an individual basis and in consultation with the school nurse. Common sense should prevail when making a plan to send a child home (a child with a heavy infestation vs. a child with a couple of live lice). A parent/guardian will be contacted. Students are expected to receive appropriate treatment and return to school the following day.

Students who have been determined to have head lice will be checked daily for two weeks by the Health Care Coordinator or designee. If an extended break is scheduled during this time period, another check will be made upon return from break.

Students with three or more incidences of head lice in a short period of time will be excluded from school until proper treatment is received. A “no-nit” procedure may be implemented.

Any student or family who has multiple lice infestations will be referred to the Public Health Department for further assistance.

Classrooms with determined cases of lice will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of the school day.

## PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MEASURES

Educate staff and students that lice is mainly spread through direct head to head contact, and though unlikely, can be spread through sharing of personal items such as hats, combs, etc.

Send information home for treating lice and further prevention for families who have had a lice infestation.

Inform parents when there have been multiple cases of lice infestation in a classroom or grade.

The surest way to kill lice and prevent further re-infestation is to treat the infected student with a product that is both a pediculicide (head louse) and ovicidal (eggs). However, treatment is only advised for students who have been determined to have head lice in order to prevent resistance to treatment.

Parents may choose to have written verification from a health care provider in lieu of the Health Care Coordinator's head check.

Adopted: January 24, 2007

Revised: April 15, 2015, December 21, 2016; March 21, 2018