



# Lumberton Independent School District

## LICE MANAGEMENT

### Policy and Procedures

#### Important Information for Parents about Lice

Head lice are a common problem, especially among school-age children. This problem can affect anyone and is not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unsanitary environment. Prompt treatment is important because a delay will only help to spread the lice to others.

Head lice are very contagious. They are spread in three ways: (1) by head-to-head contact, (2) by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes, coats, hats, headbands and pillows, (3) on shared surfaces such as mattresses, car seats, sleeping bags, carpets and upholstered furniture.

Head lice cannot jump or fly. They do not infest other animals such as the family dog or cat.



*Magnified illustration of an egg.*

Nits are the silver-white lice eggs that attach to the hair.



*Magnified illustration of a louse.*

Head lice are small, grayish-white insects, 1/6 to 1/8 inch in length.

#### Detection/Treatment/Prevention

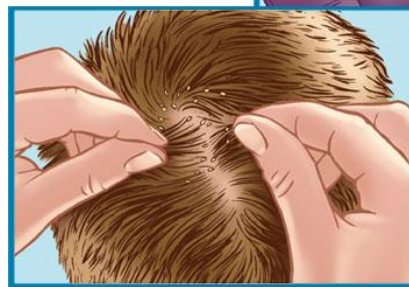
##### Detection

- The first clue that a child has head lice is frequent scratching of the scalp.
- Carefully examine the hair around the back of the neck and behind the ears for live lice or nits attached to the hair shaft close to the scalp.



##### Treatment

- Several medicated shampoos and cream rinses have been found to be effective in the treatment of head lice and their nits. Follow your physician's and pharmacist's recommendations.
- Treat the hair according to the instructions on the label.
- None of the medicated shampoos will kill all lice and nits. Treatment may need to be repeated according to instructions in 7-10 days.
- Combing hair with a special fine-tooth comb will help remove nits from hair.



- Wash clothes, towels and bed linens in hot water and detergent, or have clothes dry cleaned. Another method to kill lice and their nits is to seal clothing in a plastic bag for two weeks.
- Wash combs, brushes and other hair care items with the same preparation used for treating head lice.

### Prevention

- Ask children not to share combs, brushes, hats or clothing items with other people.
- If one member of your family has been found to have head lice, check all family members for signs of lice daily for two weeks.
- Housecleaning should be limited to normal cleaning and thorough vacuuming of rugs, carpets and furniture. Spraying or fumigating of rooms and furniture is not recommended.

## District Head Lice Control and Management Procedures

It is the responsibility of parents and families to ensure that students attending school in Lumberton ISD are free from head lice and/or nits.

In order to assist families in this concern, the following procedures and policies are in effect:

- When symptoms of head lice are noticed in the classroom, the teacher will send the student to the nurse for evaluation

### Exclusions from class

- If a student is found to have nits or head lice, parents will be called and child will be sent home for treatment
- **The student should return to school the next school day with parent/guardian for evaluation by the school nurse. Absences will be excused as long as there is evidence that treatment has been done and nit removal is in progress. If a child remains out of school due to lice longer than 3 days without this evidence, absences will be unexcused from the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) day until the student returns. Campus nurses do not differentiate if they are 'dead or live' nits.**

### Readmission to class

- Students must be readmitted to class through the school nurse's office
- Students must be completely free of NITS and HEAD LICE.
- If the student is free of NITS AND LICE, they will be given a pass to be readmitted to the classroom
- If NITS or LICE are still found, the student will return home with parent/guardian for manual lice/nit removal



Cooperation between home and school is the key to providing the best educational setting possible for our students and teachers. We pledge our support of your efforts and offer our assistance to you and your children in making this school year a success.

Per Senate Bill 1566, elementary schools are required to notify parents of a classroom occurrence of lice not later than the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) school day after the date on which the nurse becomes aware of that fact.