

HEAD LICE GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

A. Identification of cases:

Often the first clue to the presence of lice is frequent head scratching and/or a rash on the scalp. To actually diagnose requires a closer look. Staff may refer to the Washington State Infectious Disease Guide.

1. Responsibility for screening heads:
 - a. The designated staff members will check students in a confidential manner.
 - b. If the nurse is in the building, she can help examine the students.
2. Who should be screened?
 - a. Any student where there is a strong suspicion that they may be infested, i.e. demonstrating the signs and symptoms.
 - b. If you have reason to believe that a student may have contracted the lice from another student that has been diagnosed, i.e. in the same class, a sibling or a close friend.
 - c. If two or more students in the same classroom have been found to be infested, all children in that classroom may be examined.

B. Treatment:

Parent contact:

1. The office staff is responsible for calling the parent/guardian of each infested child and requiring that the child be picked up and treated.
2. The parent/guardian will be given written instructions on how to treat their child.
3. As stated in Policy #3411 and according to RCW28A.210.010 the No Nit policy of the District will be explained to the parent/guardian.
4. The treatment certification form will be brought to the attention of the parent/guardian. An explanation will be given that this form **must be signed by the parent/guardian before the student is allowed to return to school.**
5. Inform the parent/guardian that the child must be brought back to school by them and must be screened for lice/nits in the office and be **completely nit free before they can return to class.**

C. Follow-up:

Return of the student to school:

1. There is no need for the student to remain out of school once the treatment has been completed. Therefore, they should not require longer than a one-day absence.
2. Before the student is readmitted they must:
 - a. Turn in the certification of treatment
 - b. Be verified by school staff as being nit free

D. Re-infestation

1. Follow above procedures
2. Notify the school nurse
3. The school nurse and principal will determine what additional interventions, if any, are needed.

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