

CISD Pediculosis (Lice) Management Procedure

Screening Guidelines:

- School nurses will screen students for Pediculosis on an individual student basis. Privacy shall be maintained to avoid embarrassment.
- Entire classroom screenings, campus-wide assessments, and “routine” screenings are generally unproductive, resulting in a potential loss of privacy, and decreased instructional time. Therefore, this screening process will not be routinely used. A group screening may be performed occasionally when there is a concern of an infestation in either a classroom or a specific grade. In this case, Infestation is defined as 4 or more students in the same classroom with active Pediculosis, Live Bugs. Parent permission is not needed to examine a student for possible Pediculosis. Pediculosis, Head Lice, is a common nuisance, and every effort should be made to avoid spreading.
- A referral for screening should be sent at the end of the school day based on these common symptoms:
 - Frequent scratching on the head and/or back of the neck
 - The student stated that their head was itching
 - Pink/red marks on the scalp and/or back of the neck
 - Unexplainable sores and/or scabs on the scalp/back of the neck
 - Yellowish, white, or brown nits (egg sacks) attached to strands of hair that cannot be washed out or removed with the fingers
 - White to gray crawling forms in the hair about the size of sesame seeds
- When the school nurse becomes aware of a student with Pediculosis, Live Bugs:
 - the parent of the child with lice will be notified as soon as practicable but not later than 48 hours.
 - an informational classroom letter will be sent out to parents/guardians of students in that classroom on elementary campuses within 5 days of the notification per *Texas Education Code, Chapter 38, Section 38.031*.

Parent/Guardian Notification:

According to a [head lice research article](#) published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 2015, "No healthy child should be excluded from or allowed to miss school time because of head lice or nits. Pediculosis was removed from the DSHS exclusion from the school list of conditions.

CISD Protocol: Our protocol is designed to protect the integrity of the school day, and to minimize embarrassment and unnecessary isolation of students with Pediculosis.

- A parent or guardian of a student with active Pediculosis, Live Bugs, will be notified and the student will be sent home at the end of the school day. The school nurse will discuss resources and effective strategies for removing live bugs with the parent and/or guardian.
- Students with apparent viable nits or eggs will be sent back to class. The school nurse will notify the parent/guardian to discuss resources for treatment at the end of the school day.

Excessive Absences:

Although time-sensitive, the recommended treatments for Pediculosis are relatively easy to perform and the initial treatment can usually be completed within a day. Excessive absences due to Pediculosis will be subject to the Texas Compulsory Attendance Laws.

Revised October, 2024