



Learning Community Charter School (LCCS) Head Lice Prevention and Control Policy

At LCCS, we recognize that head lice is a common occurrence among school-aged children and do not pose a health hazard or a sign of poor hygiene. Our policy follows recommendations from the **New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)**, the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**, and the **National Association of School Nurses (NASN)** to minimize disruption to learning while effectively managing cases of head lice.

School Role in Prevention and Control

1. Student Attendance

- A child identified with an active head lice infestation may remain in class but should be discouraged from close direct head contact with others.
- Parents/guardians of the specific student will be notified the same day via telephone or a written note sent home with the student.
- Prompt and appropriate treatment is strongly encouraged to prevent further spread.

2. Screening and Notification

- Students who have had direct head-to-head contact with an affected child may also be checked for lice.
- Routine classroom or school-wide screenings are **not recommended**, as they have not been proven effective in controlling the spread of lice (**NJDOH, 2024**).

3. Return to School Guidelines

- **LCCS does not enforce a "no nit" policy.** Students will not be excluded from school solely due to the presence of nits, in alignment with NJDOH, AAP, and NASN guidelines.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring proper treatment and follow-up at home.

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4. Education and Prevention

- The school nurse will provide resources and guidance on effective treatment and prevention to families as needed.
- Teachers and staff will be encouraged to promote healthy hygiene practices to reduce the likelihood of transmission.

This policy aligns with the **New Jersey Department of Health's 2024 Head Lice Guidelines** and aims to balance the importance of reducing the spread of head lice while minimizing unnecessary school absences and stigma.

For more information, refer to the **New Jersey Department of Health's FAQ on Head Lice (2024)**:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/faq/Lice-2024_FAQ_logo.pdf

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