

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES AND REQUIRMENTS

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

LS R-7 Health Services staff shall pursue the prevention and control of head lice in the district by developing a consistent screening and follow-up program for students identified with head lice. To support such a program the following will be implemented:

- 1.) Every effort to maintain confidentiality will be made.
- 2.) The school nurse or designee will screen any student that reports an active case of head lice, is symptomatic (irritation or continuous itching of the scalp), or any student who requests to be screened for lice.
- 3.) If the school nurse or designee should identify a student with an active case of head lice (which is defined as live lice or nits within a quarter inch of the scalp). The parent/guardian will be notified that student needs to be picked up.
- 4.) All siblings of the affected student will also be screened, including siblings at other buildings within the district. The school nurse or designee will discuss the need for notification of parents/guardians of other close contacts to be made by the affected student's parent/guardian.
- 5.) The school nurse or designee will instruct the parent/guardian concerning pediculocides that can be purchased for treatment. Parents/guardians will be given written information for head lice prevention, treatment, and eradication. Parents/guardians will be strongly encouraged to begin immediate treatment so the student can be readmitted to class as soon as possible to prevent excessive absences.
- 6.) To be readmitted to school, early childhood and elementary students must be accompanied to school by a parent/guardian or relative and must be examined by the school nurse or designee. It is permissible for secondary students to check in with the health room for readmission on their own, prior to attending class. If the student still has an active case of head lice (live lice or nits within a quarter inch of the scalp), the student will not be readmitted to class and will be sent home. The student will be readmitted if obvious effort has been made with the elimination of live lice and progress has been made to eliminate viable nits, all nits within ¼ inch of the scalp.
- 7.) Within 6-10 days after being readmitted to school, the student will be screened again by the school nurse or designee. If live lice or viable nits are found within a quarter inch of the scalp at that time, the parent/guardian will be notified and student will be sent home.
- 8.) The school nurse or designee will keep accurate records of student's identified with head lice/nits for communicable disease reporting and monitoring effectiveness of treatment.
- 9.) Classroom screening will not be done when a case of head lice is identified.
- 10.) The decision to send home communication to parents/guardians regarding head lice in a specific classroom, grade level, or school, will be at the discretion of the building nurse in collaboration with the health services coordinator.