



Pediculosis (Head Lice) Guidelines

While inconvenient and a nuisance, head lice does not cause disease and can be effectively treated. A diagnosis of head lice should not disrupt the educational process.

Upon discovering head lice and/or nits, a child's parent should be notified. Treatment options can be discussed with the nurse as needed.

It is not necessary or effective to do school-wide or classroom-wide head checks. If the child has an active infestation, the child's siblings may be checked. Anyone that has had known close head to head contact may be checked as well.

According to the OSDH, the ultimate responsibility for head lice checks, treatment and control lies with the parents.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses a no nit policy should **not** be utilized. Children who have had lice or nits can be checked at the nurses discretion or if a parent requests.

In cases where a child has had repeated or chronic infestation, per nurse assessment, the parent may be contacted for treatment information in order for the student to return to school. The school nurse can be contacted by the parent to review treatment of home & car as well as nit removal in order to eradicate the infestation.

The school nurse's goals are to facilitate an accurate assessment of the problem, contain infestation, provide appropriate health information for treatment and prevention, prevent overexposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absence.

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References: Center for Disease Control (CDC); American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP);
National Association of School Nurses (NASN)

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