

Head Lice

Head lice, although not an illness or a disease, is very common among children and is spread very easily through head-to-head contact during play, sports, or nap time and when children share things like brushes, combs, hats, and headphones. Because lice spreads so easily, the district will need to exclude any students found to have multiple live lice until after a treatment of an FDA-approved shampoo or cream rinse, which can be purchased from a drug store or grocery store, is used. Abernathy ISD will provide one treatment of the FDA-approved shampoo or cream rinse.

The nurse will be able to do head checks on suspected children or children that have been in close contact with the affected student towards the end of the day. The nurse will NOT be able to do mass head checks on classrooms or grade levels.

If careful observation indicates that a student has multiple head lice, the school nurse will contact the student's parent/guardian and inform the parent that the child will need to be picked up from school and will need to stay home until after an initial treatment is applied. After the student has undergone one treatment, the parent should check in with the school nurse to discuss the treatment used. The nurse can also offer additional recommendations, including subsequent treatments and how best to get rid of lice and prevent their return.

The student should return to school the following day after being treated with a FDA-approved medicated treatment. We will not exclude for nits only.

More information on head lice can be obtained from the TDSHS website at:
www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice

A comprehensive, how to video can be found at:
www.aad.org/dermatology-a-to-z/diseases-and-treatments/e---h/head-lice/diagnosis-treatment