

POLICY

2016

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1 of 1

STUDENTS

SUBJECT: STUDENT WELFARE (HEAD LICE)

While a nuisance, head lice do not pose a public health risk and are not associated with any disease. For the purpose of this policy an “active case” of head lice means the school nurse found live lice or nits that are ½” or closer to the scalp.

When a classroom teacher notes signs of infestation, they will send students to the school nurse to be checked. If an active case of head lice is found by the school nurse, the student will be sent home and parent/guardian will be instructed to begin treatment. Treatment is to include a pediculocide (over the counter or prescription). If the parent/guardian chooses to use homeopathic or natural treatment then all nits must be removed before return to school. Close contacts of the student will also be checked by the school nurse. If treatment has been started student may return to school the next day to be checked by school nurse before returning to class. Nit removal is strongly encouraged to decrease chance of reinfestation or risk of possible misdiagnosis of a new case in the future. From the date a student returns to class he/she will be checked in one and two weeks. Mass screenings will be done at the discretion of the school nurse. Classroom screenings will be done at the discretion of the school nurse, but no sooner than when three students in a given classroom at the same time have been positively identified by the school nurse with an infestation. The school nurse will also offer verbal and written information to school staff and parents/guardians as needed.

Parent/guardians are encouraged to check student’s hair for infestation regularly. If a student has multiple cases of head lice causing frequent absence from school, the parent/guardian will need to coordinate with the school to pick up missed work. If a student has multiple reinfestation a referral to Public Health will be offered.

School personnel are encouraged to take precautions to contain the spread of lice. Classroom teachers should limit cloth items in the classroom. When such items are considered to be educationally beneficial, classroom teachers are encouraged to rotate items on a monthly basis. Students should be warned against the sharing of hair and head items. Building custodians are encouraged to vacuum classroom rugs daily.

Adopted Date: 7/7/16