

LINDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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LISD HEAD LICE PROCEDURES

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINATION AND PARENT NOTIFICATION

1. School staff should refer any student suspected of having head lice to the school health personnel.
2. The school health personnel will privately and unobtrusively examine the student's head.
3. Live head lice (a louse) found in the hair will be considered evidence of an active infestation which requires treatment.
4. If an active infestation is suspected, the student's parent/guardian will be notified and instructed to pick their child up as quickly as is possible. The parent/guardian will be informed that after one treatment with an effective medication, the child will be allowed to return to school.
5. Nits found on the hair shaft within 1/4" of the scalp will also be considered evidence of an active infestation which requires treatment. However, in the absence of live head lice, the student will be allowed to stay at school for the remainder of the school day. As these nits may hatch into live head lice, the parent will be contacted and will be informed that after one treatment with an effective medication, the child will be allowed to return to school.

EDUCATION OF PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERNING TREATMENT

The school health personnel will explain the following to the family:

1. The methods of treatment, including that they may choose to contact their family physician before treatment.
2. Educate on how to identify head lice among the family members.
3. Educate and emphasize proper treatment of personal articles, clothing, carpets, upholstery, pillows, mattresses, and vehicles.
4. Follow up teaching by giving the parent/guardian written instructions as a guideline.

EXCLUSION AND READMISSION OF CHILD

If possible, keep the student in the office or health room until a parent/guardian can come for the child. Otherwise, keep the student from close personal contact with others. The child with active head lice will be excluded from school until hair has been treated with an FDA approved lice treatment. All new nits, along with as many old nits as possible, should be removed to prevent re-infestation. Students returning to school after treatment should be examined by school health personnel before returning to classes, and on a weekly basis for 3 weeks, unless a re-infestation occurs. If re-infestation occurs this process will repeat itself. School health personnel will take special care to review with the parent/guardian the correct treatment and control of the household. Frequent infestations and excessive absences may be signs of other problems, and the school may choose to seek assistance from the local Public Health Department and/or the Department of Protective and Regulatory services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

When a case of head lice is found, that student's close friends and siblings should be checked as soon as possible. If three or more students have head lice in one classroom, the entire class will be checked. If a student at the Elementary level or lower is found with head lice the parent of each child assigned to the same classroom as the child with lice will be notified, either electronically or in written form, not later than the fifth day after the case of lice has been determined.

Head Lice Notification Document

Your child may have had contact with head lice on:

Date: _____

During the next 48 hours, please check your child for lice and lice eggs (nits). Check **all other family members**, too.

What do head lice look like?

Lice are small, brown and about 1/8" long.



The nits are very small and white. And, they are not easy to pull off hair strands with your fingers.



How do I check for head lice?

Look closely on:

- The scalp (where the hair meets the head)
- In the hair
- Around the ears
- The back of the neck

What are the symptoms of lice?

Watch for:

- Lots of itching of the head
- Eggs or lice on the scalp, hair or neck
- Red or inflamed skin near the ears or the back of the neck

Do lice spread from person to person?

Yes! They spread easily if you have close contact or share clothes, combs, or caps with someone who has lice.

What do I do if my child has lice?

See your doctor or pharmacist. They will ask you to use a special shampoo. Follow the instructions on the shampoo package. Then, carefully remove all dead lice and eggs with a special comb that comes with the shampoo. The following link contains the Centers for Disease Control (CDC's) guidelines on treatment:

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>

Treat your home, too!!!

- Wash your clothes, sheets, towels and blankets in hot water (at least 130°).
- Put your pillows in a hot dryer.
- Vacuum your rugs, carpets and couches.
- Wash all brushes and combs with the special shampoo, or throw them away.
- Put all stuffed animals in an air-tight plastic bag and leave it sealed for 2 weeks.

The following link contains more prevention measures from the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/prevention.html>

When can my child come back to school?

Once you have treated the live lice with a pediculicide your child may return to school. While we do not have a "No-nit" policy we do ask that you remove nits to reduce the risk of re-infestation, as some nits are not killed by the first treatment. A second treatment is usually necessary.

Questions?

You may call the School Nurse with any questions!

One more helpful link from the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>