

Procedures: No Head Lice

Head lice are most commonly found in children 3-12 years of age. Head lice do not pose a health hazard, transmit disease, nor serve as a sign of poor hygiene, child abuse or neglect. Nits are not equivalent to head lice, since nits cannot be transmitted from person to person, and therefore should not result in school exclusion. Head lice, on the other hand, are transmitted as a result of direct head-to-head contact. Transmission of head lice in the classroom is uncommon and lice are rarely present in more than 5% of students.

These procedures are endorsed by national organizations such as American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and the National Association of School Nurses. Similar procedures have been adopted successfully by school systems throughout the country.

Details on New Procedures for the Limestone County Schools

** Students who are identified with live lice: School staff will make all attempts to notify parent to pick child up from school to treat and return to school as quickly as possible.

** Students will be re-examined by the school employee upon returning to school. Students with head lice will not be allowed to re-enter until they are lice free.

** Students that have been cleared of lice will be re-examined in 14 calendar days by the school nurse.

** Students found to have head lice on re-examination will once again be excluded until they are lice free.

** No school-wide surveillance will be conducted for nits.

** Student with nits and no evidence of live head lice will not be excluded from school.

** Students will be allotted one excused absence due to head lice (excluding the identification day) per term.

Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children. This includes:

** Assisting in the prevention and management of head lice cases through regular checks of their children's hair and

** Starting immediate treatment when head lice are detected.

Source: Student Health Services

Last Revised: February 2017