

Stark County CUSD #100 - Head Lice Administrative Procedure

1. **Notification by Parents:** Parents must notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice as soon as possible.
2. **Exclusion** - In general, there is no automatic exclusion of a student found to have nits - but no live lice, in an effort to reduce exclusions from school. Any exclusion of students found to have nits will be determined by the principal after consultation with the school nurse. Students who are found to have live bugs will be excluded for that day, and can return once verification of treatment is provided to the school nurse. Ultimately, the decision will be made by the principal in consultation with the school nurse on a case by case basis if further exclusion is necessary.
3. **Return to school:** Students can return to school after treatment is started. Families are required to return the proof of treatment letter to the school nurse upon return (see page 3). The school nurse will check the student when they return to school and again every other day at a minimum. In the event that a student is excluded, examine the excluded student upon his/her return and verify to the principal that all live lice are gone.
4. **We will expect the school nurse to:**
 - a. Provide information regarding control and treatment to staff, students and parents of those who have been identified as having lice. If available treatment kits can be sent home with the parent/student.
 - b. Inspect the heads of only students reasonably suspected of having head lice. If found to have live bugs the student's parents should be contacted as soon as possible, so the student can be picked up and treatment can begin.
 - c. Inspect the heads of any sibling of a student determined to have head lice. If a sibling is attending at a different school, the school nurse will contact the other school's nurse to notify of the issue.
5. **We will expect principals to:**
 - a. Determine whether to exclude the student from attendance.
 - b. Notify parents of the classroom affected if more than three cases are active and confirmed at the same time. Notification will include information on treatment and how to avoid the spread of head lice.
6. **We will expect staff to:**
 - a. Report cases of suspected head lice to the school nurse as soon as possible.
 - b. To the greatest extent possible, maintain the privacy of the students identified as having head lice.
 - c. Bag up any pillows, stuffed animals, and soft surface items until the lice is remediated.
 - d. Ensure all student belongings are kept separated.
 - e. Remind students not to share personal items, especially combs, hair brushes, hats, scarves, coats.
 - f. [Click here to access Teacher Tips for Lice.](#)
7. **We will expect custodial staff to:**
 - a. Vacuum any carpeting at least once daily.
 - b. Clean any soft surfaces daily.

Proof of Treatment - Return to School for recheck

Dear Parents,

This signed statement gives the _____ verification that your child
School Name
_____ has received treatment for head lice. This statement enables the school to
Child's Name
recheck your child for head lice following treatment. Upon recheck, if your child is clear of signs of head lice,
he/she will be readmitted back to the classroom. The nurse will then be rechecking your child every other day for
2-3 weeks during school. At any time, if there are signs of head lice found, you will be called and asked to take
your child home. The process will begin over again.

(Brand name of lice product used)

(Date treated)

(Parent signature)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent/Guardian Information:

Lice: What to do if your child comes home with lice

- Don't panic, anyone -adults or children -can get head lice.
- Lice is a "pest" and not an infection control risk.
- Head lice are passed from person to person by direct contact or on shared objects (combs, towels, headphones, etc.).
- Head lice have nothing to do with cleanliness and can be easily eliminated.
- Check every member of the family for tiny white eggs (nits) on hair shafts, near the scalp.
- Use an effective head lice treatment on every family member with lice or nits.
- Several good treatments are available without a prescription.
- After application, remove all nits by gently combing hair with the special nit removal comb provided with the lice treatment.
- Wash clothes, bed linens, and towels in hot water and dry on hot cycle for at least 20 minutes.
- Items such as headphones and helmets must be stored at room temperature in a tightly sealed plastic bag for at least two weeks.
- Soak combs, brushes, hair bands, etc., in water at least 130 degrees F for at least 10 minutes. Ensure all nits and lice are picked off.
- Vacuum everywhere including carpets, pillows, mattresses, upholstered furniture, and even car seats.
- Head lice cannot survive on family pets; they need a human host, so you do not need to worry about treating pets.

How to Examine for Head Lice

Use bright light to look at:

- 1 Crown of head
- 2 Bangs
- 3 Behind both ears
- 4 Nape of neck

How to inspect

- 1 Place gloves on your hands
- 2 Use fingers to separate hair and create a part. The part should allow you to clearly see the person's scalp.
- 3 Look for lice crawling on the scalp where the hair is parted or on the hair shaft. The lice will be dark in color and the size of a poppyseed.
- 4 Look for nits near hair follicle about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from scalp. Nits (eggs) will be white or yellowish-brown. Nits are often more easily seen than lice, especially when the person has dark hair.
- 5 Also look behind both ears and near the back of the neck. You may see lice or nits. You may also see bites.

The size of a nit (egg), nymph, and louse relative to a penny



CDC photos

A. Checking hair for lice



CDC photos

B. Nits (lice eggs) on hair



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Chang EK, Boom JA, Datto GA, Matz PS (Eds). *Visual Diagnosis in Pediatrics*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2006. Courtesy of Hans B Kersten, MD. Copyright © 2006. In: UpToDate, Post, TW (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA, 2014.

SCREENING TIP:

To distinguish between dandruff and nits, try to flick or pull off the white speck. Dandruff is easily pulled off, but nits are not.

Change gloves between each child's examination and wash your hands after all examinations are completed.



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