

HEAD LICE PROCEDURE & TREATMENT GUIDELINES

Please note the district's procedure for management of head lice.

1. Students with live head lice, verified by inspection, will be sent home from school for treatment.
2. Repeat cases of live lice will not be readmitted to school. The school nurse will not medically excuse reoccurring or inadequately treated cases. (The parent/guardian will be responsible for absences related to untreated or inadequately treated cases.) Students may be rechecked by school staff to rule out re-infestation.
3. Notification letters will be sent home to alert parents only if a high percentage of children in a classroom are newly infested (no history of head lice).
4. Schools will not perform mass head lice screenings, but will screen on an individual basis by referral. Typically, siblings living in the same household and known close contacts/friends in school will be screened when possible.

Treatment Checklist (to be completed before student returns to school)

Lice-killing treatments are not always 100% effective, especially for nits (eggs). Nits often survive, hatch, and re-infest the child. Therefore, efforts to comb out or remove nits that are close to the scalp are important. A nit comb may help with this process. Vinegar rinses may help loosen nits but will not kill lice. Environmental lice sprays are generally not recommended. Pets do not carry human head lice, therefore it is not necessary to treat pets.

1. Screen all household members for lice and inform close contacts of possible exposure.
2. Treat student (and household members who have lice) with a safe and effective lice-killing shampoo. Follow the package directions. (Consult your health care provider if the child or family members are pregnant, nursing, under 2 years old, have open wounds on scalp/neck, have allergies, or if eyebrows or eyelashes are infested. Some insurances will pay for head lice treatment. Contact your health care provider to inquire about prescription treatment options.)
3. Wash personal belongings (such as bedding, clothing, towels, hats, caps, scarves, coats, etc.) in hot soapy water and dry in the dryer on high for at least 20 minutes. Soak all combs and brushes in hot, soapy water for an hour.
4. Seal items that cannot be washed (stuffed animals, etc.) in plastic bags for 14 days.
5. Vacuum floors, rugs, vehicles, mattresses, and upholstered areas.
6. Instruct child not to share personal items.
7. I will treat my child again with a lice-killing shampoo according to the manufacturer's recommendation (usually 7-10 days after initial treatment).

Alternative Head Lice Treatment Plan (natural, non-toxic, 2-week process)

1. Apply an agent to suffocate crawling lice. Consider use of Crisco (easy to remove), vaseline, (difficult to remove), real mayonnaise (*not* lite or low fat), or olive oil applications. The product should remain on the hair for a minimum of **two hours**. (A shower cap or stocking cap may be helpful.) Lice can be removed by regular shampooing and conditioner/crème rinse application, and fine-tooth combing of wet hair.
2. Efforts to comb out nits/eggs attached to the hair shaft with a "nit comb" will reduce the risk of treatment failure.
3. Repeat daily shampoos followed by conditioner/crème rinse for 2 weeks. Fine tooth combing to remove nits and lice should follow every hair wash. Nits that are more than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft (scalp) are almost always non-viable, so don't worry about those.
4. Haircuts may facilitate this process.

Additional Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/head-lice.htm>
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/head-lice.html>
- <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/from-insects-animals/Pages/Signs-of-Lice.aspx>