

Policy Number: 453.7 – Rule

Title: Guidelines for the Control and Treatment of Head Lice/Nits in School

Adopted: October 18, 2010

**IF SUSPECTED:**

1. If suspected of having head lice, the student shall be removed from the classroom as unobtrusively as possible for further inspection.
2. A student may be suspected of having head lice if the following are noted:
  - a. The student complains of an “itchy scalp” or is observed scratching his/her scalp.
  - b. The student has nits and/or live lice.
  - c. The student has open sores/lesions on the scalp.
3. The student may be inspected privately by the school nurse, or by other trained building personnel designated by the principal in collaboration with the school nurse.

**IF THE STUDENT IS FOUND TO HAVE LIVE HEAD LICE:**

1. The parent/guardian or the designated emergency contact person will be notified. The student shall be allowed to return to the classroom for the remainder of the day if practical to do so.
2. While there is no medical reason to remove a child from school due to head lice, the student’s parent/guardian or emergency contact may choose to take the student home before the end of the school day.
3. The student shall be readmitted when the school receives documentation of treatment for head lice. This may include, but is not limited to, a note from the parent stating the treatment used, or a treatment product bottle, box top, label, receipt, etc. Students will be re-inspected by the school nurse and/or principal’s designee, upon return to school.
4. A student should not miss more than one day of school following head lice detection. Truancy laws will apply to students missing excessive amounts of school due to head lice infestations.
5. Parent conferences may be appropriate when a student is frequently absent due to head lice infestations. Referrals to community agencies may be appropriate.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:**

All information shall remain confidential.

**REPORTING:**

1. Parents/guardians are requested to report to the school cases of head lice infestation that they discover at home. The school nurse, principal or principal’s designee will determine what interventions are appropriate in the school setting.

**LIMITING OUTBREAKS:**

1. The District reserves the right to inspect other known household contacts (e. g., siblings) and close personal contacts attending school in an effort to stem outbreaks in other classes. However, seldom is inspecting an entire classroom or student body necessary or effective.
2. The school nurse shall monitor environmental conditions and be responsible for making recommendations to decrease transmission of head lice.

EDUCATION:

1. Head lice information shall be available upon request from the school nurse.
2. While no school can be entirely risk free from communicable disease, it is felt that efforts directed toward awareness and prevention will result in fewer infestations and be cost and time effective.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference:

453.6 – Head Lice

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Wisconsin School Nurse Association