

Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 Operations
Title	Copy of PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)
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8451 - PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Head lice is a universal problem, present in the community at all times, and is particularly prevalent among elementary school-age children. Head lice are a nuisance, but do not spread disease. Control of lice infestation is best handled by adequate treatment of the infested person and his/her their immediate household and other close personal contacts. Contracting head lice is not an indicator of uncleanliness or socioeconomic status. Head lice are spread most commonly by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact and are not known to spread diseases. However, much less frequently they are spread by sharing clothing or belongings onto which lice have crawled or nits attached to shed hairs may have fallen.

Communication from the school to parents directly and through parent and classroom education to the students will help increase the awareness for both parents and child. Parents need to continually observe their child for this potential problem to check their child's head on a regular basis for signs of head lice and treat adequately and appropriately as necessary. Control depends on prompt case finding and effective treatment.

The school nurse or his/her their designee shall be the only ones authorized to conduct examinations of students for head lice.

If a student in the Corporation is found to have head lice,

After treatment and upon returning to school, the student will be examined by the school nurse or designee, which may include the principal. The Corporation practices a policy of no live lice as the criterion for the return to school. **[NOTE: The American Association of Pediatrics and other organizations advocate that "no nit" policies should be discontinued because misdiagnosis is common, the burden outweighs the harm to the student and nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.]**

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines to provide for the implementation of this policy.

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