



Dear Parents/Guardians,

In keeping with the School District of Washington's policy of avoiding the unnecessary exclusion of students from school, the district will not exclude otherwise healthy children from school due to nit infestations. Students with head lice infestations will be excluded from school only to the minimum extent necessary for treatment. SDOW school nurses will utilize the following procedure:

1. Schools will not perform routine school wide head lice screening.
2. If the nurse or teacher discovers head lice or nits on a student, the parent/guardian will be notified and other students that reside with the infected student will be checked.
3. The school nurse will instruct the parent/guardian concerning appropriate treatment.
4. If the student is infected with live head lice, they should not return to school until treatment can be completed.
5. When the student with live lice returns to school *after* treatment, the school nurse will examine them before returning to class. If live lice are found at that time, the parent/guardian will be asked to treat the student again before returning to school.
6. A student with nits present will be examined within 5 calendar days by the school nurse. If nits remain, the parent/guardian will be asked continue to remove nits on a daily basis and to treat the student again according to package instructions. ***The biggest cause of re-infestation is missed nits.***

Some facts regarding lice:

- Head lice move by crawling; they cannot jump or fly.
- Head lice are mostly spread by direct head to head contact, such as play at home or school, sleepovers, or sports activities.
- It is possible, but not common, to spread head lice by contact with items shared with someone who has head lice, such as clothing (hats, scarves or coats) or other personal items (such as towels, combs, or brushes).
- Head lice transmission can occur at home, in the community, or sometimes in the school.

What can you do?

1. Check your child's head periodically throughout the year, before and after school breaks, after sleepovers and camps.
2. If your child has lice, check all household members and close contacts, especially those that share a bed and/or hair care items. Please notify recent sleepover contacts and children that play together outside of school. Those who have live lice should be treated at the same time.
3. If you find lice or suspect your child has lice, talk to your school nurse or pediatrician to get appropriate care.
4. Follow ALL treatment instructions. One of the most common causes of treatment failure is not following the package directions.
5. Head lice do not infect the house. However, family bed linens and recently used clothes, hats and towels should be washed in very hot water and dried on a high setting.
6. Personal articles, such as combs, brushes and hair clips should be soaked in very hot water for 5-10 minutes if they were exposed to someone with lice.

We hope this information is helpful. There is more information available at www.cdc.gov