

HEAD LICE

The Governing Board recognizes that head lice infestations among students require treatment but do not pose a risk of transmitting disease. The Superintendent or designee shall encourage early detection and treatment in a manner that minimizes disruption to the educational program and reduces student absences.

The Superintendent or designee may distribute information to parents/guardians of preschool and elementary students regarding routine screening, symptoms, accurate diagnosis, and proper treatment of head lice infestations. The Superintendent or designee also may provide related information to school staff.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible.

If a student is found with active, adult head lice, he/she shall be allowed to stay at school until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian of any such student shall be given information about the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment of the student immediately and to check all members of the family. The parent/guardian also shall be informed that the student shall be checked upon return to school the next day and allowed to remain in school if no active head lice are detected.

Upon the student's return to school, the school nurse or designee shall check the student for active head lice. If it is determined that the student remains infected with head lice, the school nurse or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss treatment. As needed, he/she may provide additional resources and/or referral to the local health department, health care providers, or other agencies.

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

If a student is found consistently infested with head lice, he/she may be referred to a multidisciplinary team, which may consist of the school nurse, representatives from the local health department and social services, and other appropriate individuals, to determine the best approach for identifying and resolving problems contributing to the student's head lice infestations.

(cf. 1400- Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

When it is determined that two or more students in a class or school are infested with head lice, the principal or designee may, at his/her discretion, notify parents/guardians of students in that class or school and provide them with information about the detection and treatment of head lice.

HEAD LICE (continued)

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
48320-48325 School attendance review boards
49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS
Guidelines on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities, rev.
March 2012
A Parent's Guide to Head Lice, 2008
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION
Pediculosis Management, Position Statement, rev. 2011
WEB SITES
American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://www.aap.org>
California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>
California School Nurses Organization: <http://www.csno.org>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice:
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head>

Policy

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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California

Students

HEAD LICE

Pediculosis

Definition Pediculosis: Louse Infestation of Scalp and Facial Hair

Symptoms: Head Lice produce itching of the scalp and possibly some excoriated areas of the scalp. Lice nits are attached to hairs as small, pearly gray capsules that adhere to hair shafts. If nits are more than 1/2 inch from the scalp, they are not viable. Lice do not fly, jump or carry disease.

Recommendations: The American Academy of Pediatrics, National Center for Disease Control and the National Association of School Nurses all recommend that schools do not implement policies where any student with any lice eggs will be excluded from school.

Identification

When a student presents with symptoms of a possible lice infestation such as itching scalp, observed live lice or nits:

School personnel who have been trained by the school nurse will screen the student.

Privacy will be maintained.

If live lice and /or nits within ½ inch of the scalp are noted, contact parent and recommend treatment for an active infestation of lice.

A lice information sheet should be given to parents of classmates.

Returning to School

Students may return to school when parent has confirmed proper treatment of lice and no live lice are noted. Parent should make an effort to remove all nits, but student may return to school if nits found are more than ½ inch away from the scalp and are not alive. If school personnel have questions as to if lice infestation is active or not, they should contact the school nurse.

Students

HEAD LICE (continued)

Classroom Screenings and Parent Information

Class screenings for lice are not recommended, except for when two or more students in a classroom are found to have active lice infestations. A lice information sheet should be given to parents of classmates. Classroom screenings will continue to occur before students leave to SCICON.