

## Communicable/Infectious Diseases

### HEAD LICE

The school district will maintain a nit free policy for all students. Any student found to have Pediculosis (head lice) or nits in their hair will be excluded from school until they have been treated and checked on re-entry. The district reserves the right to take truancy action on students with chronic absenteeism because of this condition.

A particularly annoying and frequently misunderstood health problem is head lice. This health problem knows no bounds and all students, regardless of home conditions are susceptible to head lice. When this occurs, parents and school personnel must work together to control the situation. Because head lice is a communicable disease, certain actions must be taken by the school to prevent further outbreak. The following procedures describe the "NO NIT", Board approved policy we have in dealing with this problem. Also included is a list of expected actions parents need to take.

### ELEMENTARY PROCEDURE

#### PARENT OBLIGATION

1. If notified by school, that child has head lice, plan to pick up child at school.
2. Treat child, family and household and vehicle with recommended medicated shampoo and treat household as defined by newsletter. ALL NITS as well as lice need to be removed before re-entry into school.
3. After the above is accomplished, return with your child to school office to have your child rechecked before re-entry into his/her classroom. Students may not ride the bus until checked.
4. Repeat #2 in seven days.
5. Check child's head on a regular basis, as a preventative measure.

#### SCHOOL OBLIGATION

1. Exclude any child with nits or live head lice. A parent letter regarding treatment procedure will go home with child. (Head lice is defined as a communicable disease by State Health Division, ORS 433.255, 433.260)

2. School will check child's hair on day of re-entry. (This will done by a trained employee). If nits are present, the child will be sent home until ALL NITS are removed.
3. School will treat appropriately by vacuuming and spraying the areas with pediculocide, bagging any items not washable.
4. If student rides a bus, the affected areas will be cleaned and sprayed with a pediculocide.
5. Students will be educated about head lice transmission and preventable measures, (plastic bags for coats and hats, no sharing of combs, or clothing).
6. Students who have had chronic infestations, will be reported to the Linn County Health Department for follow-up contact.
7. School personnel will be in contact with parents of students who are sent home with head lice and do not return to school in a reasonable time. (Contact will start if student is absent three or more days.) The truancy officer will be notified if child misses ten or more school days.
8. If the parent cannot be reached to pick up child with head lice, emergency contacts will be called. Alternative means of transportation to home or relative, friend, babysitter will be explored if needed. The parent is responsible for arranging care outside of school for their child.

#### HIGH SCHOOL PROCEDURE

1. Once a positive case of head lice has been identified by a trained employee , the student's parents will be notified of the situation and the need for the student's removal from school that day.
2. All identified students will take home a parent newsletter describing treatment of family and household and vehicles.
3. The affected student will not be allowed back into class without being checked by trained employee on their day of re-entry. Students need to plan transportation other than the bus until re-entry head check is accomplished. If nits are still found in the hair on the day of re-entry, the student will be sent home again to have ALL NITS removed. This process will continue until student has NO NITS in his/her hair.
4. Spot checks on siblings, or previously affected students will be done by a trained employee on an as needed basis.
5. The school district reserves the right to make the proper truancy referrals if the student does not return to school within ten school days after initial exclusion. Chronic head lice cases will be referred to the Linn County Health Department for report and referral.