

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

The Board recognizes that district programs should be conducted in a manner that protects and enhances student and employee health and is consistent with recognized health practices. Consequently, in order to prevent the spread of pediculosis (head lice) in the school setting, district staff shall institute guidelines for classrooms that will assist in the prevention and spread of head lice. Students with suspected cases of lice shall be referred to the school nurse or building administrator for assessment. Students found with live lice or nits will be excluded from school attendance. The district recognizes that the Nevada Department of Human Services, Health Services, no longer requires excluding for the presence of nits (lice eggs) and allows discretion to districts to exclude. Students excluded from school will be readmitted after assessment by designated personnel to confirm no lice or nits are present.

Successful treatment of head lice requires a coordinated approach and may involve the use of antilouse products, combing and implementation of preventative measures recommended by health authorities. The district will provide parents of students found to have contracted head lice with treatment information. It is the district's intent to not only eliminate the current infestation, but also to prevent a repeat episode.

The superintendent will develop administrative regulations, as necessary, to implement this policy.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

(Excludes students infested with either live lice or nits. Does not allow attendance of students with nits.)

Students found to have contracted head lice will be subject to the following procedures:

1. Suggested school measures for head lice control, as provided in “Health Services for the School Community” issued through the Nevada Department of Education will be followed;
2. Student head lice checks done periodically are not recommended. Screening recommendations are as follows:
 - a. Criteria for screening an individual for lice are: persistent itching or scratching, known exposure to sibling or other close contact with head lice (e.g., seat mate in classroom, locker partners, overnight sleep activities, scouts, etc.), self (student or parent) referral;
 - b. Three nonrelated cases of head lice in a classroom within 10 consecutive school days requires that all children in the classroom be screened by the following school day;
 - c. If there is infestation among three percent of the entire student population within 10 consecutive school days, there should be a screening of all students in the school within one week. Multiple cases from a single household count as one case for purposes of calculating the percent of students infested.
3. Students found to have contracted head lice will be immediately excluded from school;
4. Treatment information, district policy requirements and readmittance provisions will be provided to the parent. Parents will be advised to:
 - a. Use a lice-killing agent which their health-care provider, school nurse or local health authority recommends on all family members who have symptoms of infestation;
 - b. Follow the personal and household cleaning instructions provided by the district, health-care provider or local health authority, as appropriate;
 - c. Remove all nits after treatment.
5. Following treatment, the student will be readmitted to school;
6. Parents must either accompany their student to school for readmittance or provide a signed statement that treatment has been initiated;
7. The student will be subject to screening by designated personnel to determine the treatment’s effectiveness. The student will be readmitted to school or denied admittance, as appropriate. The absence of nits is required for readmittance. In the event the student is not readmitted to school, parents will be notified;
8. Students readmitted will be subject to follow-up screening by designated personnel;
9. In the event additional assistance and/or information is needed regarding the treatment of the student, other family members, close contacts and the home environment (bedding, linens, grooming equipment, etc.), parents should contact their local health department;
10. Students with chronic head lice may be referred for follow-up to the school’s nurse or local health department, as appropriate;

11. Parents who identify head lice on their students at home are to complete treatment prior to the readmission of their student, as required above. Parents are also encouraged to notify the school of their student's condition so that appropriate preventative measures may be implemented at school.