

Vallivue School District #139

Pediculosis, also known as head lice, is a common condition in the school-age child. Head lice are not known to spread disease. Head lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly. Head lice are spread by direct contact with the hair of an infested person. Anyone who comes in head-to-head contact with someone who already has head lice is at greatest risk. Spread by contact with clothing (such as hats, scarves, coats) or other personal items (such as combs, brushes, or towels) used by an infested person is uncommon. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice (CDC, 2013).

The school principal or designee will coordinate head lice screenings. Any student who is diagnosed with or reasonably suspected to have head lice including the presence of lice and/or nits, will be required to follow the Modified Nit-Free Procedure as detailed below under “Administrative Handling”.

CASE FINDING**1. Mass Screenings:**

- a) Will be scheduled at the beginning of each school year; thereafter, as needed
- b) May be announced to parent/guardian in advance of screening
- c) Will be performed by individuals assigned to each grade level
- d) Will take place in the classroom or other convenient location
- e) Students who have live lice may be required to go home immediately.
- f) Students who have nits present may be allowed to finish the school day.

2. Individual Referrals:

- a) Will be accepted anytime
- b) Will be the responsibility of the nurse or an appointed individual
- c) Students who have live lice may be required to go home immediately.
- d) Students who have nits present may be allowed to finish the school day.

ADMINISTRATIVE HANDLING**MODIFIED NIT-FREE PROCEDURE**

Re-Admission screening will be the responsibility of the nurse or an assigned individual.

I. FIRST RE-ADMISSION: (AFTER FINDING ACTIVE LICE)

1. Check for signs of treatment: nit free, no live lice, significantly lower numbers of nits
 - a. If no nits or lice are found, student may return to class.
 - b. If only a few nits are found, nits may be pulled out and discarded; student may return to class.
 - c. If many nits and/or live lice are present tape a nit/louse onto the lice documentation

worksheet and contact parent/guardian or emergency contact for immediate treatment.

2. Provide additional education to the family by one or more of the following means:
 - a. Personal contact
 - b. Phone call
 - c. Home visitation

II. SECOND RE-ADMISSION: (AFTER FINDING ACTIVE LICE)

1. See “First Re-Admission” (above)

III. THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT RE-ADMISSIONS: (AFTER FINDING ACTIVE LICE)

1. Student may be required to be NIT FREE for the remainder of the school year
2. Any one or more of the following may be implemented:
 - a. Home visitation and education by the school
 - b. School Nurse may provide treatment for use at home
 - c. Report to Health and Welfare

PREVENTING TRANSMISSION

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

1. Hats, gloves, etc. may be placed in the sleeve of coat
2. Coats and backpacks may be placed on hooks or in cubicles
3. Piling of coats is not recommended
4. Use of plastic bags optional
5. Encourage students with long hair to keep hair up off shoulders
6. When not in the classroom, student may sit on their coat or tie their coat around waist, placing hat, gloves, etc. in the sleeve first.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL:

1. Students should keep their personal items in their own designated lockers.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

IDAPA 16.02.10.025.032 c.iv

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2013) retrieved @ <http://www.cdc.gov>

ADOPTED: 8/12/14

AMENDED: 5/8/18