

STUDENTS

Head Lice

The Governing Board recognizes that head lice infestations among students require treatment but do not pose a risk of transmitting disease. The louse commonly lives in the hair of infected individuals, resulting in itching and scratching; and is occasionally the cause of a secondary skin infection. Primary transmission of head lice is by direct contact. Head lice may in some cases be transmitted by fomites; such as hats, coats, and hairbrushes. Treatment consists of medicated shampoos readily accessible over the counter and complete removal of the nits. It is not an emergency and does not require the immediate presence of the nurse.

Central Unified School District operates a no head lice policy. A student with active head lice infection must have their hair treated with medicated shampoo and returned to school within 24 hours. A student with head lice may also have nits. The nits are oval shaped eggs which are attached to individual strands of hair. Most head lice preparations will not kill all of the nits nor will they cause the nits to fall off of the hair. However, nits that are not close to the scalp and therefore removed from body heat usually do not hatch. A no head lice policy means the student can return to school if there are no live head lice present. If there are nits in the hair greater than ¼ inch away from the scalp, the student may remain at school. It is recommended, however, that all nits be removed with a fine tooth comb to avoid re-infestation. If a returning student is found with nits after receiving medicated treatment, he/she shall be allowed to remain in school and parents/guardians will be notified. Parents/guardians that need assistance or have questions about lice and nit removal can contact the school's health office.

Head lice Procedure:

- If a student is found with active, adult head lice the parent/guardian shall be immediately contacted to pick up their child. Parent/guardians shall be given information on the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment immediately. They should also be encouraged to check all members of their family and provide treatment if needed.
- If a student is found with nits, the parent/guardian shall be immediately contacted to review cleaning procedures and the student may stay in the classroom until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian shall receive be given information on the treatment of head lice and encouraged to begin treatment immediately. They should also be encouraged to check all members of their family and provide treatment if needed. The student must be treated with a medicated shampoo for head lice as directed by the manufacturer of the shampoo.
- The student must report to school within 24 hours of the exclusion date for a second head lice check to show he/she is head lice free (The first day can be counted as an excused absence, an additional two days may be granted for unusual circumstances at health office or administration approval).
- Failure to return to school lice free on the third day from the exclusion date will lead to Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) notification.

(cf. 5141.3 – Health Examinations)

An information sheet on head lice and treatment procedures will also be sent home with each student excluded. Informational handouts on Head lice may include:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at: <http://cde.gov>
- Central Unified School District Head Lice Information Sheet
- A Parent's Guide to Head Lice from the California Department of Public Health.

(cf. 5145.6 – Parent Notifications)

(cf. 5125 – Student records)

Classroom Checks

When it is determined that one or more positive cases of head lice are in a classroom, the principal or designee, at his/her discretion, may inform parents/guardians of the students in that classroom of possible exposure and methods of detection and treatment.

(cf. 5141.3 – Health Examinations)

(cf. 5145.6 – Parent Notifications)

Return Policy

After returning from exclusion a student must be cleared through the health office before returning to class. If the student is clear, he/she may return to class with a clearance note. If lice are still present, the parent/guardian will immediately be contacted to pick up the child from school. A maximum of three days from the first exclusion date will be allowed before SARB intervention. Once cleared, it is recommended that the student be continually rechecked by the parent one week to ten days later for re-infestation. It is also recommended for complete treatment that all nits be removed from the hair, although students who have nits present shall be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Staff will maintain the privacy and confidentiality of students identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.

(cf. 5112.2 – Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 5141.3 – Health Examinations)

(cf. 5145.6 – Parent Notifications)

The principal should designate a staff member to clear students to return to class if the school health office staff is not available. This person should receive in-service regarding the identification and treatment of head lice, and be familiar with district policies on exclusion and clearance. Confidentiality and privacy of the student must be observed at all times.

(cf. 4131 – Staff Development)

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 – Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)

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