

Edinburg Common School Pediculosis (Head Lice) Policy

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) “no-nit” policies are no longer recommended.

- Lice is a nuisance but has not been shown to spread disease
- The burden of unnecessary absenteeism far outweighs the risks associated with head lice and may violate a child’s civil liberties
- Treatment should be started immediately (once home)
- Nits may be present after treatment but crawling lice should be killed
- Schoolwide or routine screenings should be discouraged because it has not been proven to have a significant effect on the incidence of head lice
- Check a specific students head if demonstrating symptoms
- Remain in class but be discouraged from close or direct head contact with others
- Confidentiality is important
- Notify parents by telephone or note stating prompt and proper treatment is important
- Parents should contact their primary care provider for advice since many strands can be resistant to treatment
- Survival of lice when not on the head is usually less than one day and eggs can only hatch when incubated by body heat for near the scalp
- It is not recommended to highlight cases of head lice by sending notes home because it has been proven to increase community anxiety, social stigma, and puts student rights to confidentiality at risk
- Students with live lice should not return to school unless proper treatment has been started and the student is free from active lice
- A student will be readmitted to school once they are cleared by the nurse
- Only send home with nits if they are within a ½” from scalp or an overabundance

References

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2015). Head lice. Retrieved from <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/135/5/e1355>
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Head lice information for school. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>
 National Association of School Nurses. (2016). Head lice management in the school setting. Retrieved from <https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-head-lice>

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