
DESCRIPTOR TERM:

District 370 Policy
File Code: 8.14

Students

Exclusion for Head Lice

2000 5-11-00
Amended & Adopted 2000 11-13-00

Introduction

Head lice are common in childhood and affect children in all economic, social, and educational circumstances. Head lice live only on humans and are spread from person to person regardless of good health habits. They are spread by sharing combs and brushes, hats, or other objects placed on or in the hair. They can also be spread through close physical contact. The adult female attaches 6-10 tiny eggs (nits) per day to the hair shaft. Evidence suggest that viable (live) nits can be found at any distance from the scalp. In 10-12 days, if left on the human host, the eggs will hatch. Head lice cannot survive without its human host for more than 24 hours. The life span of the adult is 23-30 days.

Administrative Guidelines

Homedale School District's responsibility in dealing with head lice is to assist in their detection and prevention. The Board of Trustees recognizes that responsibility for the treatment of head lice rests with the home. Students with lice and/or eggs shall not be permitted to attend school. When lice or nits are found, the affected student shall be excluded from school, according to the described procedures.

Students suspected of having lice (excessive scratching of the scalp, appearance of possible nits) should be referred to the nurse or designee as soon as possible for inspection. The nurse or designee shall examine the student. If nits or lice are found, the student shall be excluded. Upon the presence of head lice and/or nits, siblings of the affected student or members of the same household who also attend Homedale Schools will be checked. Parents/guardians will be informed about recommended treatment procedures, ways to check the hair, and prevention methods. They will also be informed about sources of further information, i.e. Southwest District Health Department and personal physician.

If a student refuses to be examined for lice, the parents/guardians will be called to take the child home. Excluded students may return to school only upon examination by the nurse or designee. Follow-up procedures will be done according to the exclusion guidelines below.

The principal shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students.

Staff shall make every effort to maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice and excluded for treatment.

Excluded students may return to school when re-examination by the nurse or designee shows that all pests and nits have been removed. These students shall then be checked weekly for two weeks.

Preventive Measures

Because head lice are not uncommon and they are easily spread, the school nurse or designee shall send information regarding the detection, treatment, and control of head lice to parents/guardians as needed to prevent infestation.

When two cases of lice are detected in a classroom, the nurse or designee shall examine all students in the class. Also, the “Head Lice Prevention” letter will be sent to all parents/guardians of children in the classroom the same day the cases of head lice are discovered.

If a number of students are identified as having head lice, all students in the school may be screened for lice at the discretion of the building principal and the nurse.

Procedures for Head Lice Checks and Subsequent Exclusions

Room checks will be done per grade level in grades K-4. The nurse or designee will screen a new grade every three to four days as scheduling allows. It will be a priority to expedite the return of those students already excluded due to head lice before a new grade level is screened. Classroom checks will also be scheduled at the Middle School every three to four days as scheduling allows. All siblings and household contacts of any affected student who also attend the Homedale School District will be checked and excluded if necessary. Students will be readmitted to class when re-examination by the nurse or designee shows that all lice and nits have been removed.

Exclusion and follow-up procedures will be done according to the following guidelines.

1st School Day - Any student found to have lice or nits will be excluded from school. The parents or guardians will be given an Exclusion Notice with signature of parental receipt required and additional information on head lice detection, treatment, and prevention. Expectations of the student’s timely return to school will be addressed. Depending upon the extent of the head lice and/or nits and duration of the condition, the school expects the child to return to school lice and nit free within two to three (2-3) days.

3rd School Day - If the student has not returned to school and has not eliminated all lice and nits, contact with the parent or guardian will be made via phone call or home visit by the nurse and/or principal (or designee). The nurse will review with the parents what treatment they have used and offer suggestions and resources, as needed, i.e. head lice shampoo.

5th School Day - If the student has still not returned to school and has not eliminated all lice and nits, the nurse, principal (or designee), and the SRO will make a parent visit. The SRO may issue a written warning to the parent designating violation of Owyhee County Ordinance #00-01.

7th School Day - If the student has still not returned to school free of lice and nits, a letter will be presented to the School Board requesting that the student be declared truant and that the case be remanded to the Prosecuting Attorney. The SRO may, at this time, issue a ticket to the parent designating violation of Owyhee County Ordinance #00-01. Also, the nurse will make a referral to Health and Welfare, Child Protective Services.

NOTICE OF EXCLUSION

due to

HEAD LICE and/or NITS

Your child, _____, has been found to have head lice and/or nits. According to Homedale School Board Policy 8.14, students with lice and/or nits shall not be permitted to attend school. This policy prevents the transmission of head lice to others and protects the well being of all students. The school expects your child to return to school, lice and nit free, within two to three days. Failure of your child’s timely return could lead to the following consequences.

- A violation of Homedale School District Attendance Policy. This could lead to your child being retained in a grade or loss of credit.
- A charge of truancy. This could lead to legal consequences, as a child of 7-16 years of age is required by law to be in school.

Your child’s quality education is dependent upon maintaining good attendance. Please take prompt action to insure that the education of your child is not interrupted.

_____ Principal

_____ Date

I understand the Homedale School District Head Lice Policy 8.14 and I have received information regarding treatment procedures.

_____ Parent/Guardian

_____ Date

Follow-up (by nurse): _____

HEAD LICE PREVENTION

Dear Parents:

There have been a few cases of head lice detected in your child's classroom. As a preventive measure, we are requesting that all parents examine their children.

Head scratching and intense itching of the scalp are the main indications of head lice; their presence can be confirmed by a close inspection of the scalp. Head lice grow in oval, whitish eggs called nits. Inspect the child under good light, you can see the eggs, if present, attached to the base of hairs most often above the ears or at the nape of the neck. There may only be a few. Dandruff can be easily removed, the nits cannot. The actual hatched lice are tiny grayish crawling forms, but they are difficult to find.

Although an annoying problem, head lice should not trigger undue alarm, but prompt action. Head lice can happen to any family and is easily transmitted. They are generally transmitted from one person to another by direct personal contact and by the common use of personal items such as combs, brushes, hats, and coats. They can spread rapidly if preventive measures are not taken as soon as the lice or their eggs have been found. Listed below are some recommendations for the treatment of head lice. According to health policies, a child with head lice is not to attend school until all pests and nits have been removed. If you have any questions, please contact the nurse at 337-4033.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Get a medicated shampoo for lice; there are several non-prescription shampoos for lice that you can buy over the counter or you can call your doctor. **FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN AND ANYONE WITH ALLERGIES OR ANYONE WHO IS PREGNANT, BE SURE TO CONTACT YOUR PERSONAL PHYSICIAN.**
- Follow closely the instructions given by the doctor or those given with the product that you have chosen.
- Disinfect the combs and brushes by washing them in the medicated product or boiling them.
- On the day you shampoo the hair, you must also wash all bedding, pillows, clothing, etc. in hot water.
- Inspect each member of your family weekly. If lice or nits are found, follow the above recommendations.