

<b>Series</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>Students</b>
<b>Section</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>Student Health and Welfare</b>
<b>Letter</b>	<b>453.22L</b>	<b>Head Lice Control Rules</b>

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INSTRUCTIONS  
HEAD LICE TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Description:** Head lice are bloodsucking insects that are found on people's heads. Head lice usually inhabit only the hairy surface of the scalp, preferring the nape of the neck and the area behind the ears. Close inspection of individual hair of the infected person reveals small teardrop-shaped, silvery-colored eggs called nits. The nits do not shake loose or wash out because of the cement-like substance secreted by the female louse when she lays her eggs.

If your child comes home with head lice, don't panic. Head lice are easily transmitted from one person to another by direct contact with an infected person's head or body hair, or by contact with such personal items as hats, hair brushes, combs, scarves, towels, bedding, etc. Immediate and effective treatment will help rid your child of head lice and prevent the spread to others.

**Treatment:**

1. Once head lice and/or nits are found, your child and infested family members must use a special shampoo or creme rinse. These products can be purchased over the counter at a local drugstore, or by prescription from your doctor. Follow the instructions on the label of the product you choose. Some products require a second treatment, where one treatment is sufficient for others. Your pharmacist or school nurse can provide information on products available. Products are also available for removal of nits.
2. Combs and brushes can be soaked in a solution of the medicated shampoo or creme rinse mixed with hot water for one hour, or in a quart of water with 1 1/2 tablespoons of Lysol for one hour.
3. All washable clothing, throw pillows, towels, bed linens, etc. should be machine washed in very hot water and detergent. Dry at a high heat for 20 minutes. Dry clean hats, clothing, comforters, etc. that cannot be washed (or seal in a plastic bag for two weeks).
4. Carpets, upholstered furniture, pillows, mattresses, car seats, etc. which may have been exposed to persons with head lice should be vacuumed.

Each school will use discretion to follow up and check school contacts of a person who has head lice. It is recommended that family members check each other for the presence of lice or nits, and also be treated if necessary. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school or the school nurse.

**NOTE: Parents are required to submit the second treatment form 7-10 days after the first treatment.**

**Reviewed: 2004**