

Series	400	Students
Section	450	Student Health and Welfare
Procedure	453.22P	Head Lice Control Guidelines

**HEAD LICE CONTROL GUIDELINES
(FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL USE ONLY)**

IF SUSPECTED.....

1. If suspected of having head lice, the student may be removed from the classroom. The Principal must be notified.
2. A student may be suspected of having head lice if the following signs are noted:
 - A. The student complains of itching behind the ears, at the back of the neck and on the crown of the head; and
 - B. The student has a telltale pink rash, nits, and/or live lice.

TO OBSERVE...

1. The student may be inspected privately by the school nurse, if available, or by other designated building personnel. Severe cases are obvious to identify by simply looking at the student's head. Mild cases will require a closer inspection under good light. The following inspection procedures shall be used:
 - A. A separate, clean implement (e.g., tongue depressor, unused pencil, toothpick) may be used to separate the hair.
 - B. Care must be taken not to convey the message that the student is too "dirty" to touch; the student has no control over the problem.
 - C. The individual conducting the examination needs to maintain a calm and reassuring attitude.
 - D. The examination should be done unobtrusively and privately.
2. There is no reason to fear catching lice while inspecting an individual since lice cannot jump and the nits are stuck to the hair shaft. Physicians and other health workers have investigated hundreds of suspected and infested children without catching lice themselves. Simply washing the hands with soap and water is sufficient upon inspection.
3. There are several ways to tell the difference between nits and dandruff. A nit is stuck to the hair shaft and will not shake off as dandruff will. A flake of dandruff is non-dimensional and white, while a nit is teardrop-shaped and silvery-white in color.

TO EXCLUDE...

1. If a lice infection is suspected, the Building Principal may exclude a student until diagnosis and/or adequate treatment has occurred. The student will be kept at school until the parent/guardian or the designated emergency contact person is notified.

2. A student should not miss more than 24 hours of school following treatment. Should chronic re-infestation occur in individuals, the school may request that additional measures be taken prior to readmission.

TO READMIT...

1. The parent/guardian will be given a copy of the treatment recommendations and will be instructed about the treatment verification form. The student will not be readmitted to school without this signed form. The school does not require absence of nits or prior inspection for re-admittance to school.

CONFIDENTIALITY...

1. Only information needed for the purpose of assuring notification of the appropriate parties involved and for prevention of further outbreaks should be noted. All information shall be kept in confidence in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. Treatment verification forms are to be considered and treated as behavioral records.

REPORTING...

1. Head lice is not a reportable disease and it is not necessary for the school or parent/guardian to notify the local health officer of cases.

LIMITING OUTBREAKS...

1. The school reserves the right to inspect other known household contacts attending school in an effort to stem outbreaks in other classes. However, seldom is inspecting an entire classroom or student body justified. This is a costly, disruptive and often non-productive measure. As a rule of thumb, if twenty percent of a classroom were known to be infested, this measure might be considered and only with the consent of the district administrator.
2. Parents/guardians of school children may receive printed head lice information in September and December if indicated. An individual school may elect to distribute additional information or parent notification of an outbreak. While no school can be entirely risk free from communicable disease, it is felt that efforts directed toward awareness and prevention will result in fewer infestations.

Legal Reference: Wis. Stats. 143.12

Cross Reference: 453.22; 453.22L; 453.22F1; 453.22F2

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