

Lice Management Protocols

The Harrison County Board of Education recognizes the importance of regular school attendance and the maintenance of a learning environment conducive to academic success of children. At this time, the Harrison County Board of Education supports the exclusion of **only** students with active lice infestations. Active infestations can be defined as the presence of live lice.

Detection

When a staff member suspects a student is infested with head lice the following procedures are suggested:

1. Select a setting with optimal lighting that maintains the privacy/confidentiality of the student.
2. Gloves may be used to separate the hair into sections.
3. Inspect the hair thoroughly for active infestation.
4. If live lice are identified, the student may remain in school until the issue is addressed with the parent/guardian.
5. The staff member will inform the principal.
6. Any other student residing with the affected student will be screened immediately.
7. The principal/designated staff member will notify the parent/guardian of the affected students.
8. The school will provide parents with an information guide on head lice infestation and treatment options.

Environmental Control in the Classroom

1. Vacuum all floors, rugs, overstuffed furniture and pillows in the classroom. Notify custodian as needed.
2. Play clothing, linens, and cloth toys handled by the infested student will be washed in water hotter than 130°F.
3. Non-washable items should be secured in a sealed plastic bag for at least 14 days.
4. The surface of any headphones used by the student will be cleaned.
5. Under no circumstances will pesticides be distributed in the school setting. Spraying or fogging the school with insecticides is not recommended and may be harmful if used in a poorly ventilated area.

Criteria for Return To School

1. Parents should bring their child to the school office after lice control treatment is completed. If, upon examination, school personnel find no active infestations on the student, the student may be readmitted.
2. In the event of a controversy, a physician's note may be required.

Role of the School

Parents/guardians have a responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. Harrison County Schools agree to work in a cooperative and collaborative way to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

With regard to lice screenings in schools, building administrators, teachers, or school nurses may use discretion in these matters.

Since the school nurse is a good resource for accurate information about lice, he/she should:

1. Train any designated school personnel responsible for monitoring head lice.
2. Promote the best nursing practices, which include educating, assisting, and supporting family members in the identification, management, and treatment of head lice.

1. LOOK- Lice eggs (nits) are clear, whitish or dark in color and found close to the scalp. Head lice are small grayish-tan insects without wings.



Nits



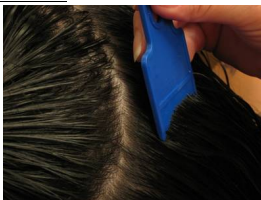
Live Lice

(enlarged to show detail)

2. TREAT- with approved head lice treatments which may include: over-the counter products, prescription medications, or alternative therapies (natural or herbal)



3. PICK OUT NITS-Nits hatch every 10-14 days. It is highly recommended that a second treatment be repeated in 7-10 days following the initial treatment. We strongly recommend removing **ALL NITS** before returning to school!



4. WASH
CLOTHES, BEDLINENS, TOWELS, etc.-wash in hot water and dry on hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Soak combs, brushes, etc for 5-10 min. in water that is at least 130° F.



5. VACUUM – RUGS, FURNITURE, CARS, MATTRESSES- Vacuum mattresses, rugs, stuffed furniture car interiors etc. Replace vacuum bag immediately. Store items that cannot be washed in garbage bag for 2 weeks, dry clean or put in hot dryer for 30 minutes.



6. KEEP CHECKING



HARRISON COUNTY BOARD of EDUCATION
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES
(304) 326-7690

Dear Parent of _____

Date _____

While checking students at school today, we found lice and/or nits (eggs) on your child's hair. Lice infestation affects nearly every school at some point in the school year. We strongly suggest that you treat your child and follow the steps below:

1. **Treat** your child with approved head lice treatments which may include:
 - Over-the-counter products, prescription medications, or alternative therapies (natural and herbal).
2. **Remove** all nits!
 - Lice lay eggs, called "nits", which are found close to the scalp. They are clear/whitish to dark in color and are the shape of a sesame seed.
 - Medicated shampoo kills live lice and most **but not all** nits! Therefore to prevent hatching and reinfestation, all nits must be removed! Nits hatch every 10-14 days.
 - **It is highly recommended that a second treatment be repeated in 7-10 days following the initial treatment.**
 - We strongly recommend that you remove all nits prior to returning to school!
3. **Clean** the surrounding environment.
 - An adult louse can live up to 48 hours off the body.
 - Wash all bed linens, coats, hats, clothing, brushes, and backpacks that have been used in the past 3 days in hot soapy water.
 - Vacuum mattresses, rugs, stuffed furniture, car interiors and immediately replace the sweeper bag.
 - Place items that cannot be washed (stuffed animals, decorative pillows, etc) in garbage bags for 2 weeks, dry clean or put in hot dryer for 30 minutes.

After a child has been treated for lice, the parent/guardian should bring the child to school to be checked by a designated staff member before returning to the classroom.

The school recommends students not to share personal items with other students and to avoid head-to-head contact since this is the most common mode of transmission. Please reinforce this to your child at home! We also stress that head lice is not a hygiene problem. It is important that you as parents help to relay this information.

Parents, school staff, and nurses must work together to take necessary precautions both at home and school so lice does not become a chronic problem. Thank you for your concern and help in this matter. If you have any questions, call our office at _____.