

Snake River District #52

STUDENTS

3523

Head Lice (Pediculosis)

Head lice are a common problem among school-aged children and adolescents. The District shall take appropriate steps to assist parents/guardians in preventing and addressing head lice while respecting the confidentiality of students with head lice and limiting disruption to their education.

Lice prevention and management activities shall be under the direction of each school's building principal or designee. Each school's building or principal or designee shall conduct the following tasks and/or train and designate other staff members to do the following:

Provide general information to parents/guardians on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice.

1. Encourage parents/guardians to perform regular lice checks on the scalp of their children who attend school, especially when excessive itching is noticed;
2. Conduct checks for head lice in students showing symptoms of head lice; and
3. Notify a student's parent/guardian if they are found to have head lice and provide resources on appropriate treatment options.

Individuals shall be trained and assigned within each school to assist in implementing this policy.

To prevent the spread of head lice at school, students should avoid head-to-head and hair-to-hair contact during activities. Students shall be discouraged from sharing such items as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair accessories, combs, brushes, or towels.

Checking for Head Lice

As described in Policy 3500, parents/guardians shall be informed that the school may conduct head lice checks as described below.

Any staff member who suspects a student has head lice shall report this to the building principal or their designee. The building principal or their designee may train school staff on recognizing signs of head lice.

The student will be checked for head lice in a confidential manner by trained personnel. Students who attend school in the District and are likely to have had head-to-head or other close personal contact with the student, such as siblings, may also be checked.

The District shall not conduct mass lice screenings of students not showing symptoms of head lice.

Students Found to Have Head Lice

Cases of head lice should be managed in ways that reduce disruption to the education process.

The student's parents/guardians shall be notified immediately by the building principal or their designee if their child has head lice.

The parent/guardian shall be notified of whether lice or nits were found. If signs of lice warranting treatment are found, the parent/guardian will be requested to begin treatment immediately. The notice shall state that prompt, proper treatment of the head lice is in the best interest of the student and their classmates.

Parents/guardians shall be provided with information on head lice treatment consistent with the recommendations of the District. The information should include details explaining the problem, list the procedures for treatment, and explain any requirements for reentering school. In addition, the District may offer extra help or information to families of children who are repeatedly or chronically found to have head lice.

Students who are found to have lice will be discouraged from making head-to-head contact with others and sharing personal items with other students. Students will generally be sent home from school early due to signs of live or dead lice or nits.

Return to School

The student may return to school once the parent/guardian affirms they have completed the appropriate course of treatment for the student's head lice. Students will not generally be excluded from school for having dead nits visible. In no case will a student be excluded from school due to the presence of dead nits only in their hair.

Notification of Head Lice Cases at School

The District will normally send a notification regarding head lice cases in the school to parents/guardians of students, aside from notifications related to checks of their own child for head lice.

Review of Policy

The building principal or designee shall review the lice management program and related procedures periodically, in consultation with medical experts as appropriate, to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the students, their families, and the District and to ensure they are in compliance with current best practices.

Any records created related to head lice cases should be maintained in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and District policies regarding the maintenance and confidentiality of student records. Only information needed for purposes of assuring notification of the appropriate parties involved and for prevention of further exposures should be noted in a student's school records. Whether any student has or is suspected of having head lice shall be kept confidential.

Cross References: 3500 Student Health/Physical Screenings/
Examinations
3500 Student Health/Physical Screenings/
Examinations
3520 Contagious or Infectious Diseases

Legal Reference:

American Academy of Pediatrics Head Lice, Clinical Reports: Guidance for the
Clinician in Rendering Pediatric Care by the
American Academy of Pediatrics, 2022
American Academy of Pediatrics Controlling Head Lice & Reducing Stigma by
the American Academy of Pediatrics, 2022
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Head Lice Information for Schools by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
2015
National Association of School Nurses Head Lice Management in Schools: Position
Statement by the National Association of School
Nurses, 2020

Policy History:

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