

HEAD LICE

The Board of Trustees recognizes that head lice infestations do not pose a health hazard, are not a sign of uncleanliness, and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. The District is committed to maximizing students' academic performance and physical well being in a healthy and safe environment.

By following the evidence-based recommendations of state and national health organizations the policies and practices of the District will reduce embarrassment for students and anxiety for parents and school staff and will prevent unnecessary absences and the potential negative effects on academic performance.

The management of pediculosis should not disrupt the educational process. Children found with live head lice shall be referred to the parent for treatment and temporarily excluded from school. (Data does not support school exclusion for nits.). In consultation with the school nurse, the principal may also send information about head lice home to all parents/guardians of the students in that class within 48 hours. School staff shall maintain the privacy of students at all times.

The Board recognizes the importance of educating staff, students, and parents/guardians on the management and prevention of head lice.

To prevent the spread of head lice infestations, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee as soon as possible. The nurse or designee shall examine the student and any siblings of affected students or members of the same household. When lice are found, the parents of the student will immediately be informed that the student will be excluded from attendance by the end of the school day at the latest. Parents/guardians shall be informed about recommended treatment procedures and sources of further information. If parents express concern regarding treatment for head lice, the District shall recommend that they consult with their physician

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

The Superintendent or designee shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students. (Education Code 48213)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice and excluded from attendance.

Excluded students may return to school when (1) they bring a note from the parent/guardian verifying treatment, and (2) reexamination by the school nurse or designee shows that all lice have been removed.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48210-48216 Persons excluded

49451 Physical examinations: parent's refusal to consent

Management Resources:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Lice, Nits, and School Policy, Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, May 2001

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Guidelines for Parents on Control of Head Lice, 2006

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NURSES ORGANIZATION

Position Statement: Pediculosis Management, 2005

WEBSITES

California Department of Health Services, Infectious Diseases Branch:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/disb/disbindex.htm>

California School Nurses Organization:

<http://www.scno.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parasitic Disease Information, Head Lice:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/lice>

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Policy revised: March 8, 2011

MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atherton, California

Exhibit 5141.33

Best Practice Guidelines for Parents to Control Head Lice

Pediculosis, or head lice, is a condition that each year affects approximately 6 to 12 million children between the ages of 3 and 12; about 1 in every 100 elementary school children. Head lice are parasites that are generally found on the scalp, around the ears, and at the back of the neck. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, and can be the color of your child's hair. Eggs, or nits, are smaller and silver in color. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and they do not transmit disease. They may spread from one child to another with head to head contact or by sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes, caps helmets, or headphones.

Inspecting a Head and Combing

Head lice are much more likely to be transmitted from family members and playmates than in the school setting. Inspect all family members' hair thoroughly, especially in areas close to the scalp at the neckline and behind the ears. Complete observation of the entire head is best performed every day (dampen hair for easier combing) until no more lice or nits are found. A useful method for nit combing is to part the hair into small sections. As each section is combed, pin the hair to the scalp as a beautician would do to keep track of what has been combed. Several brands of metal (not plastic) nit combs with long teeth are available at your local pharmacy.

Treatment for Head Lice

No treatment is 100% effective. Treatment options include over-the-counter products and prescription treatments. Alternative treatments (natural and home remedies) are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and efficacy is not proven. Permethrin or pyrethrins are the active ingredients in most over-the-counter control products; Nix* and RID* are examples of such products. Follow the label directions carefully; but, do not go beyond the recommended duration of application. Research has shown that extending the application duration does not increase effectiveness. **Only treat individuals with lice.** It is important to apply one treatment per **infested** person. **Do not divide treatments among infested people. Follow the product instructions.**

Treatment "Failures" Usually Result from the Following:

1. Lice re-infestation from a sibling or playmate
2. Incomplete combing out or removal of the nits
3. Not strictly following labeled directions
4. Not realizing it may take 8-12 hours for the lice to die
5. Incorrect identification (i.e., the problem was not lice)

Control Measures that are Not Recommended:

There is no scientific evidence to support use of products such as vinegar or compounds advertised to dissolve the glue on the nits (to ease their removal) or to kill the nits. Also, there is no scientific data to support claims that mayonnaise, olive oil, or tea tree oil on the hair can "suffocate" the nits and lice.

Environmental Necessity for Head Lice Treatment

There is no need to apply pesticides in the home. Lice die quickly (within two days) without a blood meal. Nits take 8-10 days to hatch, and then it takes about nine or more days for the lice to become adults and lay eggs. Adults lay between 110-150 eggs per day.

The Following Actions May Decrease the Chance of Reinfestation:

1. Clothing and bedding may be washed in hot water (130°C) then dried on a hot cycle for at least 20 minutes
2. Items that are not washable may be dry cleaned or put in a sealed plastic bag for two weeks to prevent lice hatched from nits from getting a blood meal

3. Soak combs, brushes, hair bands, and barrettes in rubbing alcohol or Lysol®* for one hour, or boil for five minutes
4. Carpets and furniture can be vacuumed
5. Continue to screen others in direct contact with the person who has head lice.

(*Use of a product name is for identification purposes only and does not constitute endorsement.)

Resources for Additional Information Regarding Head Lice

The San Mateo County Health Department

<http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/health/menuitem.f44138fe5f6ec63d74452b31d17332a0/?vgnnextoid=5045507494bf8210VgnVCM1000001937230aRCRD&cpsextcurrchannel=1>

The California Department of Public Health

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/HeadLice.aspx>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/index.html>