

Parents,

We have found that your child has head lice. The information below will help you remove lice from your child and your environment. Please read it completely.

1. Treat your child with an insecticide shampoo.
2. Remove all nits from the hair
3. Bring the student to the health room for a hair recheck before they return to class.

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### Head Lice Policy and Procedures

Head lice can affect anyone who may knowingly or unknowingly come into direct contact with an infected person or that person's personal belongings. Special effort is required to get rid of lice. Appropriate individual action is the key to control.

**IDENTIFICATION**– The adult head louse is an insect about 1/8" long. The newly hatched louse is smaller. The louse may vary in color from grayish to dark brown, depending on the host's hair color. It has a long, narrow body, six legs and no wings. It does not fly or hop but crawls quickly. It bites and survives on blood.

**LIFE CYCLE**- After hatching, the louse becomes an adult in 10 days. The female lives about 30 days and may lay 100 eggs. Eggs hatch in 7 days. An infestation of 4-5 adults is considered a heavy infestation.

**TRANSMISSION**- Transmission is by direct personal contact, head-to-head contact, and by indirect contact with such infested items as combs, scarves, hats, helmets, coats hung together, headphones, carpets, upholstery, stuffed animals or carpets. Head lice do not live on or come from animals. They can survive for 3 days at room temperature off a human host.

**SCHOOL POLICY AND PROCEDURES**- USD 357 adheres to Kansas Administrative Regulation 28-1-6 states, "Each student infested with lice shall be excluded from school until treatment with an antiparasitic drug is initiated." Students may return to school with nits present although parents are strongly encouraged to remove all nits to prevent re-infestation.

**TREATMENT**- Like all insects, lice are killed by chemical insecticides. However, insecticides to be used on the body should be carefully selected and approved for that purpose. Special insecticide creams or shampoos are available for use on hair and scalp.

Package directions on shampoo treatments must be followed faithfully. Only persons who are infested should be treated. Unless specifically stated on product, shampoos typically have no preventative value.

Parents are encouraged to remove nits to prevent re-infestation. Nits will not wash out. Special products may loosen the nits and make them easier to remove. A vinegar rinse or baby oil left on for 2 hours may help loosen the nits but is not a treatment in itself. A very fine-tooth comb, fluorescent light, sunlight or strong incandescent light are needed to see nits most effectively. Nit-picking also requires utmost patience since it usually last several hours even with a moderate infestation.

Combs are available with some shampoo treatment products or may be purchased separately. Combs do not remove all nits. The nits remaining after thorough combing must be removed by hand. All insecticide shampoos, prescription and non-prescription, are found to leave some nits alive regardless of package claims.

**MISSING SCHOOL-** In compliance with Kansas 28-1-6, students will be readmitted to class after being treated with an adequate pediculocide. Students must be brought to the school health room before returning to class so they may be found to be free of live lice by a hair recheck.

**REPEAT TREATMENT-** Some shampoos are designed to be repeated in 1 week in case undetected eggs or lice remain and hatch. All package directions should be followed exactly. Shampoos contain insecticide and should not be used more often than directed.

**REINSPECTION-** Students are inspected about one week after returning to class to identify any re-infestation since lice may have survived in the home. They are inspected sooner if re-infestation is noted or suspected by staff, student or family. Treatment failure or re-infestation is indicated if new nits are found close to the scalp.

The responsibility of school personnel is to assist in identifying infestations and to provide information on control. The parent's responsibility is to rid the student and the home environment of lice.

**WORKING TOGETHER-** The responsibility of school personnel is to assist in identifying infestations and to provide information. The responsibility of the parents is to rid the student and home environment of lice. For clothing and bedclothes, hot washing and drying in the dryer or sunshine is adequate. Non-washable fabric items may be tumbled in hot dryer for 20 minutes, dry cleaned, or hung in sunlight for 3 days. Items may also be placed in airtight bag for 2 weeks. Furniture, mattress, and carpets must be vacuumed thoroughly. Attention to the family car or day care provider's house must also be included to get rid of the lice.

**SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT-** Carpets in classrooms of infested students should be vacuumed. Washing off desks and chairs is probably appropriate, as is wiping down the student's bus seat in warm weather. Both of these measures are for the purpose of removing any loose hairs that may have eggs on them. Using insecticide spray in the classroom will seldom be considered necessary. This is especially true when we consider that some people are allergic to inhaled insecticide and that insecticide on surfaces is absorbed through the skin and has been associated with toxic reactions in humans.