

In light of federal guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and recommendations from the Wisconsin School Nurse Association and the National Association of School Nurses, the following guidelines for control of head lice will be followed in the Glenwood City School District.

Guidelines for Control and Treatment of Head Lice/Nits in School

If suspected:

1. If suspected of having head lice, the student shall be removed from the classroom as unobtrusively as possible for further inspection.
2. A student may be suspected of having head lice if the following are noted:
 - a. The student complains of an “itchy scalp” or is observed scratching his/her head.
 - b. The student has nits or live lice.
 - c. The student has open sores/lesions on the scalp.
3. The student will be inspected privately by the school nurse or other trained building personnel designated by the principal.

If the student is found to have live lice:

1. The parent/guardian or the designated emergency contact person will be notified.
2. Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to school following appropriate treatment.
3. Students diagnosed with live head lice should be discouraged from close direct head contact with others; however they should not be removed from the classroom.
4. There are many acceptable treatment options; although treatment with a product that is both a pediculicide as well as ovicidal is the most sure way to kill lice and prevent further re-infestation.
5. Students will be re-inspected by the school nurse or principal’s designee upon return to school.
6. Students with nits only should not be sent home from school, they should be monitored for signs of re-infestation.
7. A student should not miss more than one day of school following head lice detection. Truancy laws will apply to students missing excessive amounts of school due to head lice infestations.

Confidentiality:

All information shall remain confidential.

Reporting:

1. Parents/guardians are requested to report to the school, cases of head lice infestation that they discover at home. The school nurse, principal or principal’s designee will determine what interventions are appropriate in the school setting.

Limiting Outbreaks:

1. The District reserves the right to inspect other known household contacts (e.g. siblings) and close personal contacts attending school in an effort to stem outbreaks in other classes.
2. The school nurse will monitor environmental conditions and be responsible for making recommendations to decrease transmission of head lice.
3. The school nurse will educate school staff regarding head lice causes, treatment and common misconceptions such as:
 - a. Getting head lice is not related to cleanliness of the person or his/her environment.
 - b. Head lice are mainly spread by direct contact with the hair of an infested person.
 - c. Head lice are not known to transmit disease.
 - d. Head lice move by crawling, not hopping or flying.
 - e. Head lice are not reportable to the public health departments unless there are other communicable disease concerns.

Education:

1. Parents/guardians of school children shall receive head lice information each school year.
2. Head lice information shall be available upon request from the school nurse.
3. 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 and be cost and time effective.

Cross reference: 453.6 Head Lice

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - www.cdc.gov

Wisconsin Association of School Nurses

National Association of School Nurses (2011) Position Statement: *Pediculosis Management in the School Setting*.