

Head Lice/Nits

Purpose

Head lice are a common infestation amongst school-age children of all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. This policy outlines the steps to be taken once an infestation has been identified.

Scope

This policy applies to the Valley School District Principal, employees, students and parents.

Policy

Recognizing that head lice is a common infestation amongst school-age children of all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, Valley School will follow the policy below when evidence of lice is suspected on a student:

- (a) When the presence of head lice is suspected by a staff member, the student will be referred to the office for a head check. If evidence of lice is confirmed, other students with whom the infested student has had close contact and/or fellow classmates will be checked.
- (b) Any student who demonstrates evidence of infestation will not be permitted to return to class. A parent or authorized adult will be called to pick them up from school and take them home for treatment.
- (c) The District will provide information and instructions on treatment and removal of nits. Bedding, clothing, stuffed animals and combs/brushes also need to be treated to prevent re-infestation. Household members and playmates should be checked as well, and treated as necessary.
- (d) A parent or guardian must accompany the student back to school following treatment. After confirmation with the parent/guardian that required treatment has taken place, they must wait while the student is re-examined. If, in the opinion of office personnel examining the student, it does not appear that reasonable efforts to remove nits have been made or required treatment cannot be confirmed, the student may be sent back home.
- (e) Once a treated student has been examined and treatment has been confirmed, the student may be re-admitted to school. In cases where an exceptional number of nits remain on the treated child, the parent/guardian must agree to continue the nit removal process and the student will be re-examined periodically to follow the progress of nit removal.
- (f) A no-nit policy may be enforced, at the discretion of the school nurse or secretary in consultation with the principal, if there is evidence of an outbreak of head lice, or with any student who is repeatedly/chronically infested. In that event, a zero tolerance for nits will be taken and the student may not return to school until all evidence of nits has been removed.

Related Procedures

N/A

Policy Cross References

N/A

Policy Legal References

N/A

Management Resources

N/A

Policy History

Action:	Date:
Approved by the Board	January 21, 1998
Revised	
Revised	
Revised	

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