

Head Lice Policy (Pediculosis)

It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses that the management of Pediculosis (infestation by head lice) should not disrupt the educational process. No disease is associated with head lice, and in-school transmission is considered to be rare. When transmission occurs, it is generally found among younger-age children with increased head-to-head contact.

In light of current research which demonstrates that a “no-nit” policy does not shorten the length of outbreaks in schools, OUFSD now recommends a “no-lice” policy rather than a “no-nit” policy.

In accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center For Disease Control and the National Association of School Nurses, we have adopted the following policy for head lice. This policy will ensure a consistent, coordinated and cooperative approach to managing head lice in the school community. Head Lice is most common in children 3-11 years of age. Less than 5% of the students have head lice at any given time.

1. No child should unnecessarily miss valuable school time because of head lice.
2. The School Nurse will check any student reported to possibly have head lice.
3. If active lice or nits (eggs) are found, the parent will be notified by the end of the school day. All communication is confidential.
4. The nurse will determine the severity of the infestation and will determine if the child should go home or if the child can remain in school.
5. Upon return to school, students with head lice will be checked by the School Nurse.
6. If a parent does not follow through with proper treatment, the child will be excluded from school until treatment has been completed.
7. It may be appropriate to check other children who have had close head-to-head contact with a student with an active infestation, such as household family members, but classroom-wide or school-wide screening is not merited.
8. All elementary students will receive quarterly letters regarding head lice each school year for educational purposes.
9. Reference materials, tip sheets, and updated product materials are located in all nurse's offices and available on our OUFSD website under Health Services Department.

References:

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Adoption Date: July 1, 2014

Second Reading and Adoption: August 20, 2014