

Pediculosis (Head Lice) Policy

It is the position of Great Hearts Texas that the management of head lice in our school should not disrupt the educational process. GH recognizes that parents/guardians are responsible for caring for their children, including detection and treatment of lice. Our policy is developed using evidence-based strategies that follow the current treatment recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC, and National Association of School Nurses. There is no statute in Texas that addresses excluding children with head lice from school. Lice are not a public health threat; they do not carry disease. Confirmation of head lice does not warrant exclusion from school but does require treatment.

Policy:

1. Classroom, parent, and community education on treatment of lice will be provided by the school nurse as requested.
2. Once a student is identified as having lice, they are sent home to be treated. Any siblings of the student are also checked for lice.
3. Upon returning to school, the child and siblings will be checked by the nurse to evaluate treatment success. (Success=no live lice.)
4. If treatment was not successful, the parent will be called to pick up the child immediately to take the student home and treat it.
5. The child's hair will be rechecked at 7-10 days (about 1 and a half weeks) after treatment to confirm no live lice.
6. All classmates' parents (for grades K-6) will be notified within five days of identification, in accordance with Texas Senate Bill 1556.

Procedure:

1. Upon notification of suspected head lice, the student will report to clinic where the nurse will examine the student's hair for lice or nits. This will be done in the privacy of the clinic with no other students present.
2. If lice or nits are found the nurse will
 - a. inform the parent/guardian and have them pick up child to begin treatment.
 - b. Provide them with the following documents: notification letter, "Treatment of Headlice", "Headlice 101"
 - c. Examine any siblings or other students who may have had head to head contact such as sleepovers or sharing hats, combs, etc. (Note: the nurse will not check the entire class)
 - d. Provide education and support for the student family and school throughout the process.
 - e. Send classmate parent notification letter within five days.
3. Return to school.
 - a. Nurse will check the child's hair for treatment success.
 - b. If treatment was successful, student will be sent to class.
 - c. If unsuccessful parents will be called to pick student up to treat.
4. Document visit in student's health record.

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