



## BISD Head Lice Management Procedures

### Screening Guidelines:

- School nurses will screen students for lice on an individual student basis. Privacy shall be maintained to avoid embarrassment.
- Entire classroom screenings, campus-wide assessments and “routine” screenings are generally not productive and result in a potential loss of privacy, and decreased instructional time. Therefore this screening process will not be routinely used. A group screening may be performed on occasion at the request of the campus principal when there is concern of an infestation in either a classroom or a specific grade. Parent permission is not needed to examine a student for possible head lice. Head lice are a common nuisance, and every effort should be made to avoid the spread of the condition.



- Referral for screening is based on these common symptoms:
  - Frequent scratching of the head and /or back of neck
  - Student stating that their head is itching
  - Pink/red marks on the scalp and/or back of neck
  - Unexplainable sores and/or scabs on the scalp/back of the neck
  - Yellowish white or brown nits(egg sacks) attached to strands of hair that can't be washed out or flicked off with the finger
  - White to gray crawling forms in the hair about the size of sesame seeds

- The school nurse shall examine siblings attending the same campus of a student with pediculosis. The nurse will also be responsible for notifying the school nurses of other campuses where siblings are in attendance.

### **Parent/Guardian Notification:**

- A parent or guardian of a student with lice shall be notified and the student will be sent home for a treatment.
- Active head lice are indicated by the presence of live lice anywhere on the head. Students with nits (egg sacks) down the hair shaft, as determined by the campus nurse, will not be excluded from school. These egg sacks are empty and are of no risk to the student or others.
- If several students in the same classroom are found to have head lice, a general information letter may be sent out to parents/guardians of students in that classroom. These letters are sent at the discretion of the campus principal with input from Health Services.

**Exclusion Protocol:** Our exclusion protocol is designed to protect the integrity of the school day, and to minimize embarrassment and unnecessary isolation of students with head lice. Students who have evidence of head lice will be sent home from school so that treatment may begin as quickly as possible. The nurse shall provide the student's parent/guardian information regarding appropriate treatment and prevention of head lice transmission.

**Readmission Criteria:** Students who have been excluded from school for lice shall be readmitted to school upon:

- Receipt of a statement signed by parent or guardian certifying that the student has been treated for head lice. The document should include the date of treatment, and name of treatment applied.
- A second statement signed by a parent or guardian certifying that the student has received a second treatment should be submitted to the school nurse within 7-10 days from the initial treatment. The document should include the date and name of treatment applied.
- Examination by the school nurse prior to readmission to the classroom. Parents need to accompany their child to the clinic prior to readmission and be present during that examination. The nurse will assess for efficacy of treatment and will readmit the student to the classroom when no signs of live lice are present.

### **Excessive Absences:**

- Although time-intensive, the recommended treatments for head lice are relatively easy to perform and the initial treatment can usually be performed within a day. Excessive absences due to head lice will be subject to the Texas Compulsory Attendance laws.