

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUZEKA-STEUBEN**HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)****Head Lice and Nits**

Schools bring large numbers of children and staff into close daily contact and serve as a focal point for the transmission of all kinds of communicable diseases and nuisances, including head lice. Headlice are not known to transmit any diseases, therefore not considered as a medical or public health hazard; however, are considered a communicable nuisance. Control depends upon prompt case finding, proper administrative handling of each case, effective treatment, and prevention and limitation of spreading the nuisance.

Specific guidelines for the treatment of head lice and/or nits include screening, parent/legal guardian notification, treatment instructions, exclusion guidelines, and school and parent/legal guardian responsibilities.

Per incident, students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home. A student/staff may return the following day pending appropriate treatment. A student/staff may return the following day pending appropriate treatment. A student/staff should not miss more than one (1) day of school and truancy laws will apply to students missing excessive amounts of school due to chronic head lice.

1. The school nurse, principal, or designee is responsible for conducting inspections and for making the determination of whether or not to exclude children from school for head lice.
2. The District may require documentation stating the date and the method used in treating the lice and/or nits.
3. Educate parents/guardians that there are many types of treatment options; however, treatment with a product that is both a pesticide as well as an ovicidal is the most effective way to kill lice and prevent re-infestation.
4. Student re-entry to school must be approved by the school nurse, principal, or designee.
5. Staff of the School District of Wauzeka Steuben will not be responsible for the removal or treatment of nits or lice.
6. Students/Staff with nits only should not be sent home; however, those with live lice or an unmanageable level of nits present in hair will be excluded from school. Failure to provide treatment and follow-up care will be subject to unexcused absences.
7. Notification letters should be sent home to alert parents/guardians only if a high percentage of students/staff in a classroom are infested with lice.

Legal References: Wisconsin State Statutes §§ Section 121.02 (1)(i); 254.11-254.178; HHS 145.06(1), Wisconsin Administrative Code; Center for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head>; National Association of School Nurses (2016) <http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy>

Cross References: Prevention, Control and Treatment of Head Lice Infestations in Schools

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