

Ozark R-VI School District

Head Lice

In keeping with the Ozark School District policy of avoiding the unnecessary exclusion of students from school, the district will limit exclusion of otherwise healthy students from school due to head lice infestations. Students with head lice infestations will be excluded from school only to the minimum extent necessary for treatment. To avoid the unnecessary exclusion of students from school, the administration provides the following procedure:

1. Schools will not perform routine school wide head lice screenings. However, should multiple cases be reported, the nurse will identify the population of students most likely to have been exposed and arrange to have that population of students examined.
2. If the school nurse discovers head lice or nits on a student, the parent/guardian of that student will be notified and the nurse will discuss the need for treatment at home before the student will be allowed to return to school. Other students in the district who reside with the infested student will also be checked for infestation. Students found with live lice or nits, if not picked up by the parent, may be returned to class for the remainder of the school day. The student will be discouraged from close head to head contact with others. (Source American Academy of Pediatrics) If a student is unable to comply with these instructions exclusion may be necessary.
3. The school nurse will instruct the parent/guardian to contact their healthcare provider or pharmacist for appropriate treatment options. Educational materials will be given to the parent/guardian. (Source; Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services) The nurse will assess for any financial need in purchasing treatment products and provide resource information (i.e. Care to Learn) as needed.
4. When a student who had a live head lice infestation returns to school after treatment, the student will be examined by the school nurse. If live head lice are found at that time, the parent/guardian will be notified and be instructed concerning the continued need for treatment. The student will be excluded from school to allow for treatment. This process will continue until the student is free of live head lice.
5. A student who is identified as having nits but not a live head lice infestation will be examined one week from the initial identification. If this examination reveals nits are still present, the parent/guardian will again be instructed on nit removal and encouraged to do regular family checks.
6. The school nurse will keep accurate and confidential records of students infected with head lice or nits.
7. If it appears the parent/guardian of an infested student is failing to secure timely treatment for the infestation after having been given notice of the existence of head lice or nits in accordance with these procedures, the nurse will notify the school principal. The matter may be reported to the Children's Division of the Department of Family Services.

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