

## Head Lice Policy

The problem of head lice (pediculosis) is ongoing and can be time-consuming. Even though head lice are not a threat to health, they are a frustrating nuisance. Prompt treatment of student(s) with a positive diagnosis of head lice ensures minimal disruption of their educational program.

### Exclusion

When a student is initially identified as having live head lice, the student is to be excluded from school at the end of the school day for treatment.

### Readmission

After treatment at home, it's mandatory to return to school the next day via the health office, for inspection. Parents must be notified that students who return to school with live lice will be sent home. As such, parents are advised to accompany their child to school. Upon checking the head, if live lice are found, the child returns home with the parent for treatment. If your child has been treated and there are no live lice, the child may return to class. We encourage the removal of nits but children can return to class if they have been treated, even though nits are still present.

### Recurrent Re-infestations

If a child has untreated or recurrent infestations, then the nurse and parent must work together to find the likely source of re-infestation and solve that problem by

1. Education of parents using written materials and verbal instructions.
2. Referral to child's primary care doctor regarding pediculicide resistance.
3. Mechanical (manual) removal of all nits, although time-consuming, is essential.
4. Assistance of community agencies or social service agencies, if appropriate, for assistance with infestation management.
5. Mass screening (school-wide or whole classrooms) is not an evidence-based practice in controlling head lice infestation/ re infestations. It is the responsibility of the parent to treat head lice infestation. The key to success in controlling head lice, with a small chance of recurrence, is in the removal of all nits after the use of the pediculicide. Although students are allowed back to class with any reportedly treated hair when there are no live lice, encourage parents to continue removing nits until the problem is resolved.

For questions or more information, contact the school-site Health Office staff at [school.nurse@springscs.org](mailto:school.nurse@springscs.org) or (951) 234-3776