

Cornerstone Pediculosis Guidelines:

Pediculosis (infestation by head lice) should not disrupt the educational process. No disease is associated with head lice, and in-school transmission is considered rare. No healthy student should be excluded from or miss school because of head lice or nits. Head lice screening programs have not been found to have any effect on the incidence of head lice in the school setting and are not recommended. The school nurse's primary role is one of education and support for the family. The student's privacy as well as the families right to confidentiality must be maintained.

If a child is suspected to have an active head lice infestation, the following shall occur:

- The student will be examined to determine if there is an active infestation of live lice or nits less than ¼ inch from the scalp. Siblings will also be checked if live lice are found.
- If there are live lice present or nits within ¼ inch of the scalp, the school nurse will contact parent/guardian to report the condition and discuss treatment. Parents are encouraged to notify close contacts.
- The student may stay in school for the remainder of the school day.
- The student must receive treatment prior to returning to school. Verbal confirmation from the parent/guardian to the school nurse that treatment occurred is acceptable.
- The school nurse will check the student within the first week of treatment and again after the 10-day follow-up treatment.
- The school nurse is available to examine for lice as requested by the parent/guardian.

For chronic or recurrent pediculosis:

- If live lice are present after treatment cycles with over the counter products, the nurse will recommend physician consultation for possible resistance.