

HEAD LICE

Public schools have a responsibility to assist in controlling and preventing spread of communicable disease. The district nurse has the responsibility for communicable and “nuisance” disease control in the school environment. Careful observation by all personnel and parents/guardians will help assure control.

Procedure

At the beginning of each school year, the health clerk or designee shall send home to parents/guardians information regarding the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to help prevent the spread of head lice by conducting routine head checks on their children and treating when live lice are found.

1. To prevent the spread of head lice infestations, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the health clerk or designee. The health clerk or designee shall examine the student. An infestation shall be determined by looking closely through the hair and scalp for nits or live lice.
2. If nits are found but there are no live (crawling) lice on the hair, the health clerk or designee shall reinspect within five school days. Health clerks may use their own discretion in deciding whether to exclude students found to have numerous nits very close ($\leq \frac{1}{4}$ inch) to the scalp.
3. If an active infestation is present, based on the presence of live lice or numerous nits less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the scalp, the parent/guardian shall be notified to arrange pick up of their child from school. The parent/guardian shall be provided information on the biology of head lice, methods to eliminate infestation, and directions to examine household contacts for lice and nits.
4. The health clerk or designee shall then examine the affected student’s siblings, if any, and others likely to have had close head-to-head contact, such as playmates. A letter will be sent home with classmates asking parents/guardians to check their child’s heads.
5. Affected students must bring a note from the parent/guardian verifying treatment as soon as possible after notification. Before re-admittance to the classroom, the health clerk or designee will examine the student’s head for live lice.
6. If no live lice are found, the student may return to the classroom. If nits are found, the health clerk or designee shall periodically reinspect the student for the presence of live lice.

HEAD LICE (continued)

7. If live lice are found, the student will be returned home for further treatment. The student should be referred to their health care provider if pediculocide resistance is suspected.
8. The health clerk or designee shall educate parents/guardians on the importance on ongoing daily combing with a metal nit comb until lice and nits are completely eradicated.

The health clerk or designee will review methods of control with the classroom teacher.

Staff shall maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice.

Regulation
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SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Santee, California