

HEAD LICE

The goals of the school district are to:

1. Decrease school absenteeism.
2. Support families in their efforts to control and eliminate head lice.
3. Maintain student privacy.

The Mary Walker School District policy regarding head lice is based on recommended guidelines of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses and the Centers for Disease Control and Response. The policy for treatment and eradication of head lice considers community standards and the impact on the educational process. If live lice are observed, the parent/guardian will be contacted by phone and a letter will be sent home in a sealed envelope with the student for education and to verify and treat for head lice.

1. Once treatment has been verified (signing of document sent home with child), the child will be allowed to return to school.
2. Upon return, school staff will re-examine the student before the child returns to the classroom.
 - If live lice are found, the student will return home for treatment with clarification of appropriate treatment methods.
 - If no live lice are found, the student will be checked again in 7-10 days by school staff to confirm the absence of lice and nits.
 - If nits are found, student may return to class and be re-checked in one week.
 - If no nits or live lice are found the student may return to class with no further follow-up.

If only nits (lice eggs) are observed, the student may remain in school, parents will be notified and information will be sent home in a sealed envelope advising the need to verify and treat.

1. School staff will re-examine the student in 7-10 days to confirm the absence of lice and nits.
 - If live lice are found, parent/guardian contact will be made, a letter will be sent home with the student at the end of the school day, and the student will be allowed back into school once lice treatment has been verified by parent-signed document and no live lice are found on re-check.
 - If nits are found, student may return to class, and will be re-checked again in one week.

If no nits or live lice are found the student may return to class with no further follow-up.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Head Lice. Treatment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Global Health, Division of Parasitic Diseases. Nov. 2018.

https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen_info/faqs_treat.html

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Pontius, D. and Teskey, C. National Association of School Nurses. Pediculosis Management in the School Setting. Position Statement. Revised. National Association of School Nurses. 2011; (3pp). ED539225.

Rollins, JA. Pediatric Nursing. Back to School? The 'No Nit' Policy. Sep/Oct2010; 36(5): 236-237. (2p).

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Classification: