

**POLICY TITLE: Exclusion for Head
Lice**

POLICY NO: 563

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Pediculosis, also known as head lice, is a common condition in the school-age child. Pediculosis is highly contagious and easily spread from direct or indirect contact with the infested person and/or infested personal items.

The school principal or designee will screen students for head lice. If nits (egg cases) or lice are present, the student will be excluded from school until the student is nit- and lice-free or until a licensed physician, public health nurse, school nurse, or other person authorized by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare determines that the student is no longer contagious. If the principal or designee later suspects or determines that the student is again contagious, the student will be excluded from school until the student meets the criteria set forth above.

CASE FINDING

1. At the beginning of each academic year, all students , Kindergarten through grade five, may be examined for head lice. Any new student may be examined upon request for entry to school.
2. When a case is found, all the children in the classroom may be examined. Also, a notification of head lice letter will be sent home to the parent/guardian of each child in the classroom the same day the case of head lice is discovered.
3. If five (5) or more children appear to be infested, an examination of the entire school may be done.
 - a. With five (5) infested students in one school, examinations of the entire school may be done every two (2) weeks.
 - b. During the intervening period, the health care provider will reexamine the infested students.

ADMINISTRATIVE HANDLING

1. Each infestation will be recorded, identifying the student's name, age, grade, teacher, bus number, date the infestation was discovered, type of treatment, and date student returned to school after treatment.

2. The parent/guardian of an infested student will be requested orally and/or in writing to come to school and take the student home. The parent/guardian will be shown some of the nits in order to:
 - a. Demonstrate that the child is infested; and
 - b. Enable parents to see what a nit or louse looks like and, thus, gain the information needed to examine other family members for infestation.

4. Proof of treatment (note from physician or shampoo box top) must be given to the principal or designee prior to the student returning to school. The student will be reexamined for active pediculosis before readmission. The student will not be readmitted until proof of treatment is provided. If a student has been treated at least twice and is still coming to school with active pediculosis, the parent/guardian will be required to bring the child to school for seven (7) continuous school days to be checked before regular admission to school will be allowed.

5. If the principal or designee determines that the family cannot afford treatment, the principal may:
 - a. Request direct follow-up by the local health department; or
 - b. Arrange for medication to treat the infested student and infested members of his or her household. Medication may be furnished by the school district or by the principal or designee.

PREVENTING TRANSMISSION

1. When an outbreak of pediculosis occurs at school, classroom activities involving body-to-body or head-to-body contact between students should be temporarily suspended.
2. During an outbreak, group work around classroom tables should be temporarily suspended or every other chair spacing used.
3. During an outbreak, students riding school buses will be required to sit in assigned seats limited to two (2) students per seat.

4. During an outbreak, teachers are required to:
 - a. Assign coat hooks in the classroom.
 - b. Encourage students to keep hats in coat sleeves or pockets.
 - c. Segregating clothes where adequate facilities for hanging coats are not available.
 - d. Suspending play on carpeted areas.
 - e. Suspend all use of activities requiring headphones OR spray each headset with effective treatment after each use.
5. During an outbreak, the bedding in the nurse’s office or other designated office areas should be disinfected accordingly.

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LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Section 33-512.7
IDAPA 16.02.10.025.032 c.iv

ADOPTED: January 14, 1998

AMENDED: March 15, 2011