

Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

The Beaverton School District maintains a lice free policy in regard to head lice protocols.

All live lice will be removed. Application of a lice-killing product is recommended. The manual removal of as many nits as possible and environmental cleaning is required.

All students infested with live lice shall be excluded from school until the measures outlined above have been completed.

The following inspection schedule will be instituted if a head lice infestation is suspected:

1. First Inspection

- a. If live lice are present the student will be sent home with a parent and will be excluded until all live lice have been removed.
- b. If only nits are present, the student will return to class and be rechecked by school staff in one week.

2. Second Inspection

- a. If live lice are present the student will be excluded until all live lice have been removed.
- b. If nits remain at this inspection, the student will be re-checked by school staff in one week.

3. Third Inspection

- a. If live lice are present the student will be excluded until all live lice and nits have been removed.
- b. If no live lice are found at this inspection the student will not be checked again unless another episode of infestation is reported.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure approved treatment has been initiated and the appropriate environmental cleaning is being conducted in the home.

The District will provide community education and/or resources to insure that the parents are able to comply with and understand their responsibilities under this policy.

At least once a year, all schools will communicate with families regarding prevention and treatment of head lice. In the event that three or more unrelated cases of live lice are diagnosed at a school within a two week period, a letter will be sent home to parents of all students at the school.

Legal References:

ORS 433.255

ORS 433.260

OAR 437-002-0360

OAR 581-022-0705

HEAD LICE IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT

STEP I: CHECKING FOR HEAD LICE

Use a good light source and look through all household member's hair, especially behind the ears and near the back of the neck. Treat only the people who have head lice or nits.

STEP II: PREPARING TO TREAT HEAD LICE

Many over-the-counter head lice treatments are available in grocery stores and pharmacies. You can ask your pharmacist, school nurse, local health department, or physician for advice on which products to use.

Natural products and alternative treatments such as food oils and hair gels that act by suffocating the louse have been suggested and marketed to consumers. Please consult a health care professional before using non-standard or unregulated treatment products.

Do Not Use

- Flammable substances such as gasoline, kerosene, or rubbing alcohol
- Motor oils
- Pet flea shampoo
- Electric clippers – although hair cutting or shaving may remove many nits and lice, the psychological impact on the child should be considered.
- Oral antibiotics
- Don't over treat with any head lice shampoo. Follow product recommendations.
- Don't switch products during the week, hoping "more is better".

STEP III: TREATING THE HAIR

Begin by washing the hair with a conditioner free shampoo. Then follow the lice treatment product's directions. Many commercial products are powerful pesticides and may be toxic if used incorrectly.

Many products cannot be used on children under 2 years of age. Pregnant and nursing mothers should consult their health care professional before using any product.

STEP IV: NIT REMOVAL

Beaverton School District has a No Live Lice policy to attend school. Therefore, nit removal is not necessary for attendance, but should be attempted because:

- Nit removal may prevent over treatment
- Nit removal within 1 cm of the scalp may prevent being re-infected

Nit removal involves:

- Have the person sit on a non-upholstered chair or stool
- Make sure there is a good lighting available, such as a bright lamp or sunlight
- Check the hair in small sections for nits and live lice
- Separate sections with hair clips or bobby pins
- Each nit must be snagged firmly by fingernails or lice comb, slid down the hair shaft and disposed of in the sink, on tape, or in a plastic bag
- If a comb is used, dip the comb in water periodically to remove any lice and nits
- The process can take a long time depending on how many lice/nits are present. Books and videos can help pass the time
- Have the person put on clean clothes that were not exposed to lice
- Daily head checks are recommended for 2 weeks

STEP V: CLEANING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Wash and dry all recently worn clothing, bedding and towels
- Items that are unable to be washed can be dry cleaned, placed in an airtight sealed plastic bag for 2 weeks or placed in the freezer for 48 hours.
- Vacuum recently used car seats, couches and other upholstered furniture
- Wash combs, brushes, and hair accessories in hot water, daily
- The use of pesticide sprays is strongly discouraged

STEP VI: PREVENTION AND FOLLOW-UP

- Do not share personal items such as combs, brushes and hair accessories
- Use your own pillow and sleeping bag for sleepovers
- Do not share coats, hats or other articles of clothing
- Check your child's head regularly for head lice