

Procedure

The Elmbrook School District head lice guidelines are based on research from the Harvard School of Public Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics. While Elmbrook does not have a “No Nits” exclusion guideline, students will continue to be excluded for live lice. There will be an expectation that nits will be removed and the student will be checked for a reduction of nits.

Preventative Measures

- Upon admission to school, parents should review “Guidelines for Handling Head Lice.”
- Parental screenings of their children should be done prior to the start of the school year and periodically throughout the school year with cases reported to the Health Room and close contacts, for example friends and relatives.
- Educational materials will be available for parents, students and staff. They will be located on-line and in the health room. See the following websites:
Harvard:
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>
American Academy of Pediatrics:
<http://www.aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics:110/3/638.pdf>.

- Parents will be notified with a written letter that head lice cases have been identified in their child’s classroom.
- Students who are repeatedly infested may be referred to Public Health officials by the School Nurse in consultation with the building administrator.

School Control Measures

Any student or employee who is found with adult head lice shall be excluded from the school environment until treatment is completed and the student or staff is rechecked by health room staff and is found to be lice free.

An infestation of a student/employee shall be treated as follows:

1. Head lice are found by school personnel.
2. Person is excluded from school (parents are responsible for transporting their child home).
3. Students in the classroom where head lice are found may be checked. (elementary only)
4. Treatment takes place.
5. Student/employee may return to school after treatment. Student must be accompanied to school by a parent or designee.
6. Student/employee will be checked by school health personnel upon return to school and before going to class. The student/employee must be free of live lice before being readmitted to school.

Elmbrook School Guidelines For Handling HEAD LICE

An Effort to Provide You
and Your Child with a
Safe & Healthy
Environment

Steps to Help

Head Lice

Each year there are reported cases of head lice in our school district. Head lice are a nuisance condition that can be very frustrating and costly in time and money.

Evidence of head lice infestation is usually more prevalent in the early childhood-elementary level because of student's closeness in play activities and behavior.

Many people associate head lice with a lack of cleanliness and feel very embarrassed when informed that they or members of their family have lice. Anyone can get head lice, regardless of the level of cleanliness.

HEAD LICE ARE A NUISANCE

1. IDENTIFY

Be able to identify head lice infestation.

The adult louse has six legs and moves through its surroundings by grasping onto filament-like structures (hair, clothing, etc.). It pushes and pulls itself along. The adult louse does not hop, fly, or jump. The louse, however, is fast! The adult louse can live for 30 days on a host, but only 24 hours off a host.

The egg's (nits) incubate for 1-10 days. House pets do NOT play a role in the transmission of human head lice.

Itching of the head is a symptom that needs to be investigated. Look for sores on the head that may be the result of scratching. Be sure to look through the hair carefully. Pay close attention to the crown and hair along the neck and ears. These are the easiest places to see the nits. Nits are very small and cylinder-shaped. Nits are "glued" onto the individual hair strand and do not release. They must be removed manually, either by combing with a special comb or by being pulled off with your fingernails.

2. TREAT

Check all family members – if head lice are found in one member treat all infested persons at the same time.

Please obtain a step-by-step daily checklist from the Health Room for treatment.

You may want to obtain a lice-killing product from your pharmacy or family doctor. Use according to directions! No product will be 100% effective. Complete nit removal (with comb or fingers) is the only way to be sure of a successful treatment.

Thorough housecleaning is essential. Vacuuming will help to get rid of stray hairs and live lice, vacuum all rugs, furniture, mattresses, cars, car seats, etc. Wash clothes and bedding in HOT WATER. Dry clean or put decorative or unnecessary articles that can't be washed into a dryer for 20 minutes OR place articles in a plastic bag for 14 days.

3. PREVENT

BE ALERT TO SYMPTOMS.

TREAT EFFECTIVELY.

CHECK CLOSELY AND FREQUENTLY
NOTIFY YOUR SCHOOL/ DAY CARE.

NOTIFY FRIENDS & RELATIVES.

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