



Lice Guidelines

- Any student with live lice (or nits within one quarter inch of the scalp) may remain in school until the end of the school day. Immediate treatment at home is advised. The student will be readmitted to school after treatment and examination. If, upon examination, school-designated personnel find no live lice on the child, the child may reenter the school.
- Any student with nits (farther than one quarter inch from the scalp) should be allowed in school.
- Parents should remove nits daily and treat if live lice are observed.

Adopted from MDCH and MDE recommendations for school lice policy

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Final_Michigan_Head_Lice_Manual_106828_7.pdf

Roles and Responsibilities

Parent's Role:

Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children. This includes:

- Becoming educated about head lice.
- Performing regular checks on all individuals in the home.
- Treating a child with head lice as soon as possible and committing to following through until there are no longer signs of an infestation.
- Teaching children how to minimize the chance of getting head lice by avoiding head-to-head contact, not sharing hats, combs, brushes, and hair accessories, and by containing long hair in braids or ponytails.
- Informing close family, friends, and coaches/teachers, if they are in after-school activities, that there is a case of head lice.

School's Role:

- Periodically disseminate current educational materials on head lice to parents, especially when a significant increase in head lice cases is detected or an individual classroom has more than one case of lice.
- Utilize a nurse or school staff to evaluate individual cases of head lice; not mass screenings.
- Designate an individual or individuals who will be trained to inspect and assess for head lice on a private and confidential basis.

State and/or Local Public Health Agency's Role:

- Provide technical support and knowledge to schools.
- Disseminate the most current information on head lice recommendations and control measures.

Procedures

Student identified during school hours to have an active case of head lice:

1. Student may return to class, but restricted from activities involving close head-to-head contact or sharing personal items with other children. Immediate removal of the child is unnecessary—if the child has lice, they probably have been infested for weeks and prompt removal of the child could lead to embarrassment and ridicule. The child can be sent home at the end of the day and should be allowed to ride the bus.
2. Notify parent/guardian directly. Offer emotional support to the parent/guardian as this is a difficult situation for all involved.
3. Send home Parent Letter and Head Lice Fact Sheet

Student with suspected case of head lice returns to school:

1. Parent must accompany their child to the school office with confirmation of treatment.
2. Designated school personnel will re-examine the student's hair:
 - a. Student will be readmitted to school if no live lice are found. If live lice are found and not removed, the student may not be readmitted to class.
 - i. Review with parent the manual lice removal techniques (caution: if chemical treatments were used, they should not be used again for another 7-10 days).
 - ii. Suggest parent call their pediatrician for further assistance.
 - iii. May also contact local health department or school nurse for assistance.
 - b. Any student with no live lice, but nits farther than one quarter inch from the scalp should return to class.
 - c. If nits are found within one quarter inch of the scalp, educate the parents about the need for removal of those potentially viable eggs and return the child to class. School personnel recheck for lice and nits the next school-day to verify removal of potentially viable nits.
3. Another check of the student's hair by designated school personnel will be done in one week to assure successful treatment and confidentiality is important.
4. Request parent to continue daily lice checks and nit removal for the next two to three weeks.
5. Retreat as necessary according to product label.

Recurrent or Chronic Cases

Continued active infestation after appropriate treatment has started, persistent infestation after six consecutive weeks, or three separate cases within one school year.

- Multidisciplinary group consisting of parents, teachers, administrators, social workers, district nurse, and other appropriate individuals to determine the best approach to resolving the issue and improve school attendance.