

Head Lice Protocol for Shoreline School District

Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Public Health – Seattle & King County, Shoreline School District registered nurses will be using the following guidelines.

For suspected cases of lice or nits (eggs), school staff will send students to the nurse for a head check.

If **only nits** are found at the initial screening or return check:

- Nurse notifies parent
- Check in 8-10 days or at the nurse's discretion
- Monitoring for live lice by parent. Treatment recommended if nits are within half inch of scalp.

If **live lice** are found:

- The nurse will inform parents of treatment options.
- Parent will be encouraged to consult their physician or pharmacist.
- Parent will inspect siblings, other family members. Nurse may assist, per parent request, at nurse's discretion.
- Parent will talk with parents of close contacts to help with control
- Confidentiality of student information will be maintained.

There will be no classroom checks or classroom letters sent home when nits or live lice are found. In the event of a classroom outbreak (more than 4-5 cases in one classroom within a short time period without another known common link), the nurse, in consultation with the principal, may choose to send a letter to parents with information about identifying and treating lice.

Nurse will provide information on:

- Treatment options to parents/guardians
- Education about lice life cycle

Following treatment:

- Students may be checked for evidence of successful treatment at the nurse's discretion
- Nurse may continue to provide follow up checks and advise parents.

Students will not be excluded from school at any time due to the presence of live lice or nits.

This protocol does not increase the risk for getting head lice. Lice are harder to catch than the common cold and have NO health risks.

The purpose of this protocol is to decrease:

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| *emotionally charged responses | *fear and belief in myths | *lost workdays |
| *shaming | *burdensome costs | *lost school days |

Contact your school nurse or visit these websites for more information:

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAP-Updates-Treatments-for-Head-Lice.asp>

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<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/135/5/e1355>

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>