

HEAD LICE PROCEDURE

1302.47 Safety practices.

(b) A program must develop and implement a system of management, including ongoing training, oversight, correction and continuous improvement in accordance with §1302.102, that includes policies and practices to ensure all facilities, equipment and materials, background checks, safety training, safety and hygiene practices and administrative safety procedures are adequate to ensure child safety.

This system must ensure:

(6) *Hygiene practices.* All staff systematically and routinely implement hygiene practices that at a minimum ensure:

(i) Appropriate toileting, hand washing, and diapering procedures are followed;

(ii) Safe food preparation; and,

(iii) Exposure to blood and body fluids are handled consistent with standards of the Occupational Safety Health Administration.

(7) *Administrative safety procedures.* Programs establish, follow, and practice, as appropriate, procedures for, at a minimum:

(iii) Protection from contagious disease, including appropriate inclusion and exclusion policies for when a child is ill, and from an infectious disease outbreak, including appropriate notifications of any reportable illness;

Purpose

Inform staff what to do when a child has head lice.

Procedure

- Child remains in class
- Child goes home at end of school day
- Child can return to class after treatment has begun
- Post in classroom: Head Lice Exposure Notice
- Staff will not screen other children

General Guidelines

- Immediate or long-term exclusion is not required. Children with head lice can remain in class and go home at the end of the school day, be treated, and return to school after the treatment has begun. Children can return to school with nits following treatment.
- Notify parent/guardian of the suspected case. Offer *Head Lice- Who Does What Chart* and suggest resources for parents on how to treat head lice, such as those web sites listed below.
- Maintain and support confidentiality for the student and family.

- *Post-Head Lice Notice.*
- Staff will not screen children.
- Refer to a licensed health care provider for evaluation of secondary infection (such as skin infections from scratching), if suspected.
- Use universal precautions.
- Discreetly manage lice infestations so that the child is not ostracized, isolated, humiliated, or psychologically traumatized.
- Children should be discouraged from close head-to-head contact with others.
- Follow-up with the family to ensure that the infestation is being addressed.

Refer to the OSPI guideline

<http://www.k12.wa.us/healthservices/pubdocs/infectiousdiseasecontrolguide.pdf>

Classroom Guidelines

- Vacuum all rugs, upholstered furniture, car or infant seats and anything that can't be washed with warm soapy water.
- Discard and/or replace vacuum cleaner bags and/or contents.
- Wipe down bicycle helmets with a damp cloth.
- Wipe down headsets.
- Do not use spray insecticides (or lice sprays) in the classroom or outside. It can cause allergic or toxic reactions in children and staff.
- Wash all clothing, bedding and linen from person with head lice in hot water and use a high heat drying cycle for at least 5 minutes.
- Dress up clothing and hats should be washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer for at least 5 minutes or tightly bag for 2 weeks.
- Items that cannot be washed such as pillow or stuffed animals should be placed in a dryer using a high heat cycle for at least 5 minutes.
- Discourage children from sharing combs, hats, coats or other clothing. If possible, keep coats and hats separated on different hooks or hangers so they don't touch.
- No need to re-examine child (children) when returning to class after treatment has begun.
- Notify custodian if appropriate for your site.

Related Documents:

Head Lice Notice

Head Lice – Who Does What Work Chart

Resources:

Web sites for more info:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

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

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/from-insects-animals/Pages/Signs-of-Lice.aspx>

National Association of School Nurses:

https://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/HFLL_guide_2015.pdf