

**DODGELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board Policy Manual**

**453.31 – Rule**

**HEAD LICE/NITS CONTROL GUIDELINES**

**SUSPECTED HEAD LICE:**

A student suspected of having head lice and/or nits will be removed from the classroom. The principal shall be notified and appropriate personnel contacted to conduct an inspection. Signs that may be reasons to suspect a student has head lice/nits include the following:

1. The student complains of itching on the scalp or is observed repeatedly scratching behind the ears, the nape of the neck or anywhere else in the scalp area.
2. The student has a pink rash around or in the scalp area.

**INSPECTION FOR HEAD LICE/NITS:**

The District school nurse, if available, or any district personnel trained in head lice/nits inspection, as appointed by the principal, can conduct an inspection for head lice and/or nits. Severe cases are obvious to identify by looking at the student's head. Mild cases require a closer inspection. The following inspection procedures shall be used:

1. Inspection shall occur in a private, well-lighted area.
2. A separate, clean implement (e.g., tongue depressor, applicator stick, unused pencil, and toothpick) may be used to separate the hair. Gloves may also be used. Carefully inspect all areas of the scalp looking for nits and/or live lice.
3. Nits (eggs) are small whitish-tan ovals (teardrop) cemented to the hair shaft that are normally laid close to the scalp behind the ears, crown and back of neck. Nits can survive off the body 7-10 days under ideal conditions. Nits can be differentiated from dandruff or other materials on the hair since the nits cannot be easily removed or will not flake off.
4. Adult lice are not generally larger than a sesame seed. Adult lice avoid light and are more difficult to see. Proper lighting and separation of the hair is necessary for inspection of adult lice. Adult lice do not fly or jump, but are good crawlers (2-12 inches per minute).
5. Personnel inspecting the student must be sensitive to the situation and not convey the message that the student is "dirty" to touch. The student has no control over the problem. Personnel conducting the inspection must remain calm and reassuring.
6. Personnel inspecting the student should not be concerned about catching lice since lice cannot jump and the nits are stuck to the hair shaft. After completing an inspection, personnel should remove gloves, if worn, and wash their hands with soap and water.

**EXCLUSION FOR HEAD LICE/NITS:**

Students with live head lice or nits shall be automatically excluded from school by the building principal until adequate treatment is provided. The student shall be kept at school, but not in the classroom, until the parent/guardian or the designated emergency contact person is notified.

1. Written information on the treatment of head lice, including the removal of nits, and a copy of the treatment verification form shall be given to the student's parent/guardian.

2. It is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to administer the treatment, including the removal of nits.
3. If required by the product used, the treatment shall be repeated in seven to ten days to kill the lice that hatch from the nits that were not destroyed by the previous treatment.

#### **READMISSION AFTER TREATMENT:**

Students can be readmitted to school the same day or the day after treatment is administered. The District requires absence of head lice/nits for students to return to school.

1. The parent/guardian shall sign a copy of the treatment verification form. The student shall not be readmitted to school without this signed form.
2. Verification of a second treatment may be required depending on the product used.
3. The student will be inspected by the District school nurse or designated personnel upon return to school to insure that treatment has been effective (i.e., no live lice/nits). The student shall be checked periodically to determine if re-infestation has occurred. If re-infestation is confirmed the above guidelines for exclusion from school and treatment shall be followed.
4. The District school nurse shall be available to counsel or assist parents/guardians in treatment of head lice/nits and measures to prevent re-infestation. Families may also contact the local public health department for additional information.
5. Should chronic re-infestation occur in individual students or their families, the school may request that additional measures be taken prior to readmission. Truancy laws will apply to students missing excessive amounts of school due to head lice/nits infestations. A referral shall be made to local public health department when appropriate.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS:**

1. Only information needed for the purpose of assuring notification of the appropriate parties involved and for prevention of further outbreaks should be noted. All information shall be kept in confidence in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.
2. Treatment verification forms are to be considered and treated as health care records.

#### **REPORTING HEAD LICE/NITS:**

1. Head lice/nits infestations are not a reportable condition in Wisconsin or at the national level. It is not necessary for the school or parent/guardian to notify the local health department of cases.
2. Parents/guardians are requested to report to the school cases of head lice/nits infestation that they discover in order to help control outbreaks.

#### **LIMITING OUTBREAKS:**

1. The school reserves the right to inspect other known household contacts attending school in an effort to stem outbreaks in other classes.
2. While no school can be entirely risk free from communicable disease, efforts directed toward awareness and prevention should result in reduced occurrences.