

Titusville Area School District
Head Lice Policy
(School Board Policy #203.2, Revised: July 10, 2017)

Purpose

Pediculosis (head lice), unfortunately, is a yearly problem for schools nationwide. It can be a very frustrating problem for parents, teachers, administrators and nurses. Head lice affect all aspects of a community. Personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness are not associated with head lice. Head lice are not a health hazard. They do not jump, fly or hop; they crawl. There are no simple cures or solutions for this problem. The district has developed a policy for lice control. To support this policy, we request that parents continually check their student(s) for head lice.

Guidelines

1. If a student is suspected to have head lice, the student will be sent to the health office for a private examination by the nurse or administrator.
2. If the student is found to have lice and/or nits, the nurse will determine if the student can finish the day or be sent home based on age of child and extent of infestation.
3. The parent or guardian will be notified by phone call that their student has been found to have lice and will need to be treated before returning to school. Referral to his/her physician will also be recommended.
4. The nurse will discuss treatment of head lice and give written guidelines to the parent if needed.
5. The student will be permitted to return to school as early as the next day after being treated and has no live lice on inspection. If live lice are found, students will be sent home and referred to a physician. If no live lice are found, student can return to class. If nits (lice eggs) but no live lice are found, student can return to classroom. Parents will be encouraged to check their student daily for the next two weeks at home.
6. The school will offer information about lice and the recommended treatment of lice.
7. Students with several repeat episodes of infestations may require referral to a family physician or Student Assistance Program.
8. All-school head checks will not be scheduled. Mass head checks have not been proven to have a significant effect on head lice cases in a school setting. If a student is suspected of having head lice, a confidential check in the health office will be done.

Lice/School Attendance Procedure

Each infestation or re-infestation is permitted a three (3) day legal excuse. Each time a student is sent home because of lice infestation, the student may need to be absent while proper action to eliminate lice has been carried out. In this case, a student may be lawfully absent for three (3) days. Any additional absences beyond three (3) days, without a doctor's order, will be considered an unlawful absence.

On the fourth (4th) day of re-entry, if the student's hair remains infested then a three (3) day legal period is not appropriate, and unlawful absences will begin to be recorded. Section 1354 of the Pennsylvania School Attendance Law states that following three (3) days of unlawful absences, the parent(s) will be notified and possible fine or arrest or both may occur. Numerous unlawful absences due to head lice will require notification of the county's Children and Youth Services.

Resources:

American Academy of Pediatrics
National Association of School Nurses

Centers for Disease Control
Infectious Disease in Children