



West Contra Costa Unified School District

Academic Support Division – Pupil Services Center

District School Nurses

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HEAD LICE POLICY

Head lice is a common problem in all school communities, but not one that causes disease. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommends a “**no live lice policy.**” In keeping with current studies, the West Contra Costa Unified School District policy allows any student identified with live lice to remain in school through the end of the day. At the end of the day the student will be sent home with guidance for proper treatment.

PROCEDURE

1. If school personnel suspect that a student has head lice, a referral to the school office should be made. The office staff, or staff member assigned by the Principal, will check for evidence of live lice. *It is imperative to protect the privacy of any student identified with nits or live lice. Confidentiality must be maintained to prevent stigma and possible bullying of the student.*
2. If live lice are found, the student’s parent will be notified to pick up the student at the **end of the school day** and given the “Dear Parent” letter and a copy of the brochure “A Parent’s Guide to Head Lice”. Both the letter and the brochure are located on the district website under Nurses Department. Parents should consult their physician or pharmacist for treatment.
3. The student with live lice will remain at home until treated with a lice shampoo. Once treatment is completed, student may return to class the next day. For maximum effectiveness, the shampoo should be repeated in 7 days.
4. The “Dear Parent” exposure letter will be sent home with the classmates of the student per discretion of the Principal.