

# Head Lice Protocol

---

(Effective January 2003, revised November 2018)

The West Linn Wilsonville School District supports a “No Live Lice” protocol. The US Centers for Disease Control, Harvard School of Public Health, American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses and Oregon Public Health Department all support this as well.

The focus of this protocol is to keep kids in school and support families.

## Guidelines for Exclusion:

1. Students found with live lice will be sent home at the end of the school day and need to begin treatment. They may return to school when no live lice are present.
2. Students who present with nits only will **not** be excluded from school. Parents will be notified if nits have been identified.
3. Parents need to notify school when live lice are found.

## Guidelines for readmission to school:

1. Students found with live lice shall be excluded from school.
2. Students who present with no live lice may return to school even if nits are present.
3. Students will be rechecked at 7 and 14 days. If live lice are present, the student will be sent home to retreat.
4. Students with nits only should not be excluded from school but should be rechecked in 7 and 14 days for the presence of live lice.
5. It is expected that parents will check student’s hair routinely (every 3 days).

## Screenings for head lice:

- Criteria for screening an individual for lice are: persistent itching or scratching, known exposure to sibling or other close contact with lice, self-referral.

If possible, parents should return to school with the student for re-admission in the event that the student may still have live lice present and will need to be sent home again.

From a medical perspective, infestation with head lice is a mild health condition without serious health consequences for a child, and is not considered a major health threat to those infested or potentially exposed. No convincing data exists that demonstrates that enforced exclusion policies are effective in reducing the transmission of lice.