

New Story Schools of Ohio: School Lice Prevention and Detection Procedures

Introduction: Our school is committed to maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all students, staff, and visitors. As part of this commitment, we have developed the following policy for lice prevention and detection based on guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ORC 3701-3-13 and the Ohio Department of Health.

Prevention Measures:

1. **Education:** Regular education sessions will be conducted for students, parents, and staff regarding lice prevention strategies, including proper hygiene practices and avoiding the sharing of personal items such as hats, brushes, and combs.
2. **Routine Checks:** Periodic screenings may be conducted by school nurses or designated staff members to detect lice infestations early.
3. **Notification:** Parents will be notified of any confirmed cases of lice within the school community and provided with information on treatment options and preventive measures.
4. **Personal Belongings:** Students are encouraged to keep personal belongings separate and refrain from sharing items that may encounter the hair or scalp.

Detection Procedures:

1. **Symptom Monitoring:** Teachers and staff will be vigilant for signs of lice infestation, such as excessive itching of the scalp, visible nits (lice eggs) or adult lice in the hair, and red bumps on the scalp, neck, or shoulders.
2. **Confidentiality:** Any suspected cases of lice will be handled discreetly to protect the privacy and dignity of the affected individuals.
3. **Screening Protocol:** If a student is suspected of having lice, they will be referred to the school nurse for a confidential examination. Parents will be notified if lice or nits are found, and appropriate treatment recommendations will be provided.
4. **Exclusion Policy:** Students with active lice infestations will be excluded from school until they have been treated and are free of live lice. However, students found to have nits only (without live lice) may be permitted to remain in school at the discretion of the school nurse, provided that appropriate treatment measures are implemented at home.

Treatment and Follow-Up:

1. **Treatment Guidance:** Parents will receive guidance on effective treatment options for lice removal, including over the counter or prescription treatments, as recommended by healthcare professionals.
2. **Re-Entry Criteria:** Students excluded from school due to lice infestations must be cleared by the school nurse or designated staff member before returning to school. This may involve a re-evaluation to ensure that all live lice have been eradicated.

3. Follow-Up Support: The school will offer support and resources to families dealing with lice infestations, including information on how to prevent reinfestation and access to community resources for additional assistance.

Conclusion: By implementing these preventive measures and detection procedures in accordance with CDC guidelines and the Ohio Department of Health recommendations, our school aims to minimize the spread of lice infestations and maintain a healthy learning environment for all students. Collaboration between school staff, parents, and healthcare professionals is essential in effectively addressing lice infestations and promoting the well-being of our school community.