

HEAD LICE REGULATIONS and GUIDELINES

The Kansas Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics recently changed its policy regarding admission to school; in accordance with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, it is no longer mandatory for children to be "nit-free" in order to be admitted back into school.

USD 220 Procedures Regarding Head Lice

- If a student has an active case of head lice (defined as having live lice present), the parent or guardian will be notified to pick up the student from school.
- After proper treatment with an antiparasitic shampoo, the student may return to school.
- The school nurse or designated appointee will perform a head check and if the student no longer has an active case of head lice, the student can return immediately to class.
- If the student continues to display an active case, the student must return home for additional treatment.
- Student will be checked at regular intervals for up to two weeks until nits are no longer viable/hatching.

What are head lice?

Head lice are tiny insects the size of a sesame seed that live only on human heads. They depend on human blood for survival. Head lice cannot jump or fly, but can crawl quickly. They lay eggs, called nits, on the hair shaft. Nits are the size of the eye of a needle, oval shaped, and vary from light gray to dark brown in color. Nits are found anywhere on the hair, but usually are found close to the scalp, behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

Symptoms of head lice:

- Itching of the head and scalp
- scratch marks that may look like a rash

What is the life cycle of lice?

Lice typically will live on a person's scalp for up to 30 days and require nourishment (human blood) at least every 48 hours. They survive only a day or two off the human head. An active case is defined when live lice are present. Head lice are spread by direct contact with an infested person.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/head_lice.htm

CDC – Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>