

### **Head Lice Procedures**

Head lice are a community nuisance, not a contagious disease. School staff will educate and support families in managing head lice, help maintain student attendance in school, and promote confidentiality.

If a student presents with signs of head lice infestation at school such as scratching head, reporting tickling feeling on scalp, or presence of live lice or nits:

- A. Trained office staff or the school nurse may screen student and siblings (in home contacts) as appropriate.
- B. Parents are informed and encouraged to follow and complete treatment guidelines from their physician or pharmacist.
- C. School staff or the school nurse will provide or direct parents to current lice information and evidence-based treatments. See the RSD website, under Health Services for resources.
- D. Student may remain at school until the end of the school day.
- E. Student may return to school the next day, rescreen is not necessary.

If a parent reports their student has lice, school staff will:

- A. Provide or direct parents to educational materials for evidence-based treatment options, noting the importance of completing the treatment as directed. Physicians and pharmacists can recommend the most effective treatment currently available.
- B. Encourage student attendance after treatment is initiated.
- C. Protect student confidentiality as required by FERPA.
- D. Discourage close head to head contact.

Legal References: Chapter 70.02 RCW                      Medical records – health care information  
Access and disclosure

Helpful websites; <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/lice.aspx>  
<https://identify.us.com/idmybug/head-lice/head-lice-FAQS/index.html>  
<https://medlineplus.gov/headlice.html>

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