



## Head Lice Procedure

Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice. Typically, by the time a child shows symptoms associated with lice infestation, they have had the infestation for several weeks.

Bend-La Pine Schools protocol for head lice and actions taken once active lice is found follows close guidelines and best practice recommendations by the Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of School Nurses, and Deschutes County Public Health Department. Additionally, Bend-La Pine Schools also considered community standards and impact in developing this protocol.

### THE GOALS FOR BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS ARE:

1. Support families in their efforts to control and eliminate head lice.
2. Maintain student privacy.
3. Decrease school absenteeism.

### PROCEDURES: FOR HEAD LICE DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT AT SCHOOL

1. When a student is found to have live lice:
  - a. The parent is notified and directed to pick up the student. Should the parent be unable to pick up the student, the student will not be sent back to the classroom in order to minimize contact that might impact other students. Students will still ride the bus home if parents are unable to pick them up at the end of the day.
  - b. The parent is instructed that the student needs to be treated before returning to school to ensure that upon return to school, the student has no active lice on their head.

- c. Information related to detection and elimination of head lice will be provided to the parent at the time of pick up or sent home with the student in a sealed envelope.
- d. Upon return to school, the student's head will be checked by a designated school employee for any active lice. If live lice is found on the student's head upon returning to school, the parent and/or emergency contact will be notified for the need to pick up the student from school for additional live lice management. The student will not be sent back to the classroom while waiting for parent pick-up.

## 2. Notification Procedures

- a. Written notification, using the district lice notification letter, about head lice detection will be sent home with classroom students where live lice was found no later than the following school day when live lice was discovered on two(2) or more students within seven (7) days.

## 3. Documentation

- a. Documentation for the student identified with live head lice will be recorded in Synergy as a health visit.
- b. Follow up/return to school live lice checks will be recorded in Synergy as a health visit for that student.

## 4. Classroom Environment: The classroom is only one of many environments where head lice can be transmitted. According to the CDC, most transmissions occur in the home environment (friends, sleepovers, camp etc.).

- a. Notify the custodian to vacuum the affected classroom and all upholstered furniture within.
- b. No environmental pesticide treatments (pesticidal bombs) are to be used.
- c. Encourage students to avoid sharing hats, combs, coats, pillows, or other personal items.

## 5. Outdoor School and Overnight Field Trip Considerations

- a. Some outside facilities have head lice policy and procedures that are not in alignment with the Bend-La Pine Schools Lice Protocol. When a facility presents with requirements that are counter to our district's protocol, a Bend-La Pine School staff member will consult with that facility and advise them of our protocol.