

# MANAGEMENT OF PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) IN THE SCHOOLS

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Pediculosis (head lice) is a nuisance condition and appropriate measures shall be taken to control the spread of lice infestations within the schools. Head lice control depends upon prompt identification, proper administrative handling of each case, effective treatment and prevention of its spread.

The lice management program shall be under the direction of the school nurse. Individuals will be assigned within each school to assist in implementing the lice management program. It shall be the responsibility of the nurse serving the school to provide adequate training to the assigned individuals on (1) how to check a student's head if he/she is demonstrating symptoms of head lice, (2) the importance and difficulty of correctly identifying an active head lice infestation, and (3) appropriate treatment options. In addition, educational materials regarding head lice prevention and treatment shall be available to staff and parents and guardians on the district website.

Specific procedures shall be developed for the management of head lice in the schools that include parent and guardian notification, treatment instructions, and parent and guardian responsibilities. Any student found to have live head lice will be sent home from school for appropriate treatment in accordance with established procedures. Students with live head lice will be sent home early from school, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Students with nits-only should generally not be sent home from school but should be monitored for signs of re-infestation. Classroom lice screenings will be conducted only if determined necessary by the school nurse.

The lice management program and related procedures shall be reviewed periodically by the school nurse, in consultation with the medical advisor serving the District, to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the school district and its families and are following best practice.

## Legal References:

### Wisconsin Statutes

[Section 118.125](#) [student records management, including student physical health records and patient health care records]

[Section 118.15\(3\)\(a\)](#) [compulsory school attendance; exception for student excused because he/she is temporarily not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school]

[Section 121.02 \(1\)\(i\)](#) [provision of safe and healthful facilities]

[Sections 146.81 – 146.84](#) [patient health care records]

### Wisconsin Administrative Code

[DHS 145.07\(1\)](#) [special disease control measures; required notification of parent/guardian and nurse serving the school and authority to send student home from school]

[PI 8.01\(2\)\(g\)](#) [emergency nursing services and nursing protocols]

### Federal Laws and Regulations

[20 U.S.C. §1232\(g\)](#) [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; the federal student records law]

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[34 C.F.R. part 99](#)

[U.S. Department of Education FERPA regulations]

**Cross References: NA**

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