

Coppell Independent School District  
**Head Lice Protocol**

Coppell Independent School District Health Services recommend a protocol that focuses on the exclusion of active infestations only. Active infestations can be defined as the presence of live lice or nits found within 1/4 –inch of the scalp. Nits that are found more than 1/4 –inch from the base of the hair shaft are almost always non-viable (hatched or dead).

- **For any student with live lice or nits within 1/4-inch of the scalp, parent notification and treatment at home is necessary. The student will be readmitted to school after initial treatment and follow-up examination. If, upon examination, the school-designated personnel find no live lice on the child, the child may reenter the school. The child should not be out of school for longer than 24 hours.**
- **Any student with nits more than a ¼-inch from the scalp or with nits that have been treated within the last two weeks should be allowed to stay in school.**
- **Parents should remove nits daily and treat if lice are observed.**

### Procedure

If a case of lice is suspected, the following procedures should be followed:

1. A trained designee from the school should check the child for head lice.
2. If no live lice are detected, and nits are greater than 1 /4-inch from the scalp or parent confirms nits have been treated within the last two weeks, student should be allowed to stay in school. Encourage parents to continue to remove nits and check their child daily for 3 weeks.
3. If live lice are detected, the student should be removed from the classroom.
4. The school should call the parent and notify them of the head lice and the procedures to follow. Send the letter, ***“Head Lice Found on Child,”*** (page 13) home with the student along with the ***Parent Treatment and Education Packet.***
5. Students should be allowed to ride the bus home if parents are unable to pick student up from school. Transmission via school bus seats is not likely because of the biology of head lice.
6. The detection and treatment of head lice should be conducted to ensure minimal disruption to the student’s instructional time. When possible, lice screening should be conducted at the end of the school day (last hour or period). Parent should treat student

as soon as possible. Student should be allowed to return to school, even on the same day of detection, once treatment has taken place. No student should be out of school for more than 24 hours for the treatment of lice.

7. Mass classroom head checks should not be conducted unless more than three students in a classroom have been identified for head lice within the last 4 days. Current evidence does not support the efficacy of classroom or school-wide screening and can cause more harm than good given the psychological impact lice may have on a child.
8. When several cases of head lice are identified in an elementary school classroom, a letter should be sent home at the end of the school week notifying parents that cases of head lice have been identified and asking them to check all of their children for head lice. (See letter, "**Notification of Lice Found in the Classroom**", pg. 15.)
9. Notify the Director of Custodial Services and student's classroom teacher for appropriate classroom cleaning.
10. After identified student with head lice returns to school, student should be re-examined before returning to class. If parent verifies student has been treated appropriately and upon re-examination the school-designated employee finds no live head lice, the student may return to class.
11. If, upon re-examination live head lice are discovered and/or there is no evidence that treatment was provided, the student will not be allowed to return to class and should be sent home until student can be appropriately treated.
12. The confidentiality of the student must be maintained at all times.