

Head Lice

Department of Health regulations (28 PA Code, Chapter 27 Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, Section 27.71 Exclusion of children, and staff having contact with children, for specified diseases and infectious conditions) requires that students be excluded if suspected of having live lice. They are to be readmitted to school immediately following the first treatment. A second treatment about a week after the first treatment may be advised. These regulations do not specify that the student is to be excluded immediately.

Following recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), "No Nit" policies are not recommended. It is recommended that students with live lice be sent home at the end of the day and contact the parents and provide instruction to treat the student, any affected family members and the home environment. "Because a child with an active head lice infestation had had the infestation for 1 month or more by the time it is discovered and poses little risk to others from the infestation, he or she should remain in class but be discouraged from close direct head contact with others." (AAP, 2010)

[IPM Information on Head Lice](#) This resource provides an overview of types of lice along with prevention and treatment options. However, it recommends head checks for all students when lice are found in a classroom. This is contradictory to the AAP's clinical guidelines and not current best practice.

[Department of Health Fact Sheet](#) (2011)

[CDC Information on Head Lice](#)

[Images to Assist in the Identification of Head Lice and Their Eggs](#)

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[National Association of School Nurses \(NASN\) Head Lice Education Campaign](#)

[2015 American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)- Clinical Report on Head Lice](#)

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