



UTCS Lice Policy

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the scalp. They lay eggs, called nits, which cling tenaciously to the hair, close to the scalp. Head lice spread from person to person by direct contact or on items like hats, combs, sweaters, etc. They can be easily transmitted in a school setting. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for prevention and control of head lice in our students and to maintain compliance with the Oklahoma Department of Public Health guidelines.

- If a student has either nits or lice, parents inform the School office and child's teacher. School employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school office as soon as possible.
- The School will send communication home to parents in the affected classes describing what to do. We uphold strict confidentiality and do not reveal the identities of students and families.
- If nits or lice are found on the student, the School office staff will call parents immediately. Please follow the treatment below scrupulously, especially combing and removing nits daily for two weeks and cleaning your environment.
- Chronic Cases: If a student is found repeatedly infested with head lice for six consecutive weeks or in three separate months of the school year, the student will be considered a "chronic" head lice case per the Oklahoma Department of Public Health guidelines. Chronic cases will be referred to a care group to help the family determine the best approach to identifying and resolving the lice infestations.

Recommended treatment:

- 1) Kill the Lice: Parents should treat their child with an appropriate product immediately. We recommend that all family members are checked and treated if appropriate.
- 2) Remove the Nits: Check your child's hair daily to remove all nits. Nits are removed by running the strand of hair between the thumb and forefinger or by gently pulling out the hair. The Licemeister™ comb is also an effective tool for removing lice and nits. The school office has some of these combs available for school families to check out. Place the nits or strands of hair in a plastic bag, tie it up and throw it away. Remove all the nits DAILY for 14 days. Treatment alone will not suffice without "nit picking".
- 3) Clean your Environment: Do all of the following without skipping a single step:

- Vacuum your house and car DAILY for 14 days, throwing away the vacuum cleaner bag. Animals cannot get human head lice and vice versa.
 - Wash all bed linens, towels, and clothes worn in the last 3 days with hot water (including hats, scarves, sweaters and jackets) and dry in a hot dryer. Sheets should be changed DAILY (yes, really) for 14 days.
 - Stuffed animals, pillows, toys or other items that cannot go in the washing machine must go in a hot dryer for 20 minutes or be bagged tightly in plastic for 14 days.
 - Hair brushes, combs and barrettes should be soaked overnight in the lice treatment of your choice. Again, do this daily for 14 days.
- Work with the life cycle of the lice. There are several calendars and timelines available online to maximize the effectiveness of your efforts.

Diligence is the most important factor in getting rid of lice. Following the above practices for 14 days, even when it seems like the lice are gone, will help ensure the eradication of lice and/or nits. Keep in mind that if you find another nit after the two-week period, you must start the recommended treatment over. Parents should continue to check their child's head whenever they wash their hair.