

PEDICULOSIS

Indian Prairie School District's policy, Exclusion of Students Due to Pediculosis (Head Lice) 720.16, has been changed to reflect standard practice as recommended by the Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Harvard School of Public Health. These organizations recommend that the management of pediculosis should not disrupt the educational process or create unnecessary absenteeism. The purpose of this letter is to explain the reasons for the changes and help you to understand why these changes do not put your child at any greater risk of contracting lice.

When lice/nits are found on a child at school, that child's parent/guardian will be informed. The child will be picked up from school by the parent. Once the child is treated for lice, the child may return to school with proof of treatment. Proof of treatment may be in the form of a physician statement, receipt for the product used, or the box top from the product used. The child will then be readmitted to class. The child will typically be back in class the next morning.

THE FACTS OF LICE

1. Lice are spread by head-to-head or close personal contact. School activities do not include this type of contact. Lice are not transmitted due to poor hygiene.
2. You only get lice from another human. You will not get lice from pets.
3. Lice do not fly or jump. They do not fall off the hair shaft; they are cemented to it. They do crawl.
4. Lice are not considered to be dangerous. They are considered to be a public health nuisance.
5. Household members and close contacts should be checked, but only those who actually have lice should be treated for it.
6. Studies have proven that excluding students from school does not reduce the frequency of the discovery of lice. School is considered to be a very rare source of transmission. More common means of transmission are family members, overnight guests, playmates, shared hairbrushes, pillows, and sheets.

If you believe your child may have lice, or you need further information, please contact your school's health office.