



Center Area School District

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HEAD LICE

ADOPTED: AUGUST 24, 2006

REVISED:

| 203.2 HEAD LICE | |
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| 1. Purpose | Guidelines are provided for the prevention and control of head lice in students attending the Center Area School District. It is the policy of the school district that every effort will be made to provide a lice free environment. |
| 2. Guidelines | <p>According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, head lice are not a health hazard or a sign of uncleanliness and are not responsible for the spread of any disease.</p> <p>Lice are not physically able to hop or leap from victim to victim, but are spread through direct contact with an infested individual. Young children are a risk because of playing together and sharing personal articles such as caps, combs, brushes, towels, clothing and bedding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To better manage and to limit the spread of head lice infestations, school employees shall report all suspected cases of head lice to the school nurse or designee. The school nurse or designee shall examine the student. An infestation shall be determined by looking closely through the hair and scalp for viable nits or live lice. 2. If nits are found but there are no live (crawling) lice on the hair, the school nurse or designee shall reinspect within 7-10 school days. 3. If live (crawling) lice are found on the hair, the parent/guardian shall be notified. The parent/guardian shall be provided information on the biology of head lice, methods to eliminate infestation, and directions to examine household contacts for lice and nits. 4. The student will be sent home at the discretion of the school nurse/principal. It will be the responsibility of the parent to transport the child home if needed. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, the principal will be responsible for transportation arrangements. 5. Upon initial inspection, if he/she is found to have live lice or excessive nits, the student will be denied readmission until the school nurse clears the student for admission. |

6. Students will be rechecked periodically at the school nurse's discretion.
7. The school nurse or designee may notify parents/guardians in the affected classroom to encourage them to check their children and to treat, if appropriate, and /or examine other students most likely to have had direct head to head contact with the affected student. Notification to any or all parents will be done so at the principal's discretion.

Legal basis for Control of Head Lice

*According to the 28 PA Code [Chapter 27](#) (Department of Health Regulations, Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Regulations § 27.71. **Exclusion of children, and staff having contact with children, for specified diseases and infectious conditions.** A person in charge of a public, private, parochial, Sunday or other school or college shall exclude from school a child, or a staff person, including a volunteer, who has contact with children, who is suspected by a physician or the school nurse of having any of the communicable diseases, infections or conditions. Readmission shall be contingent upon the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, a physician, verifying that the criteria for readmission have been satisfied. The diseases, the periods of exclusion and the criteria for readmission are as follows: **(11) Pediculosis capitis.** The person shall be allowed to return to either the school, child care or other group setting immediately after first treatment. The person shall be reexamined for infestation by the school nurse, or other health care practitioner, 7 days post treatment.*

There are **NO regulations** that require schools to send out letters, Pennsylvania Department of Health, January 23, 2006.