

MCPASD Head Lice Protocol

If live lice has been found on a student during school hours, the student will not be excluded for the remainder of that school day. Parents of the student will be called and if the parent chooses, they may pick up their child early from school. The student must receive treatment at home before returning to school. Many school districts in and around Dane County do not exclude students from school due to lice. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Department of Public Health says children should not be excluded from school due to head lice. A child has likely had the head lice for at least 4 weeks before it is discovered.

School Nurses are available to educate parents and staff about the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice. This protocol reflects current best practice.

When head lice is identified on a child, it is treated with the same level of confidentiality as any medical concern.

- 1. If a child is found to have live lice or nits (lice eggs), health office staff will call and inform the parent.*
- 2. The child will not be excluded from school. If the parent chooses, they may pick up their child early from school.*
- 3. The health office staff will review treatment for the student and environment with the parent / guardian.*
- 4. The child must receive treatment before returning to school.*
- 5. Health office staff, if referred by parent or teacher, may screen a child.*
- 6. Health office staff may screen a sibling of a student who has live lice or untreated nits and attends the district schools.*
- 7. The parent/guardian of the student with live lice or untreated nits is encouraged to notify daycare and close contacts.*
- 8. Health office staff will check the child's scalp for head lice and nits once a week for 4 weeks or until the lice case resolves.*
- 9. Letters may be sent home if there has been a case identified in a classroom.*