

School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen

Lice Protocol

This protocol has been developed in accordance with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the National Association of School Nurses.

If a child is identified by the family as having live lice or nits, it is the responsibility of the family to notify the school nurse. The school nurse relies on information from families in order to make decisions regarding actions to take at school. The family should also notify any students or adults who may have had close, direct, head-to-head contact with the affected student.

If a student has a suspected lice infestation identified by the school nurse, the following steps will be taken:

- The student will not be identified to classmates or informed of the presence of lice or nits in the presence of other students, nor will he/she be removed from class. This information will only be shared privately with student's family.
- The nurse will contact the student's parent/guardian by phone if head lice are suspected.
- The nurse will also encourage the family to make contact with the student's pediatrician for recommended treatment.
- No student will be required to leave school in the middle of the school day because of signs of a lice infestation. However, the parent may choose to take the child home earlier in the day to begin treatment.
- Written and verbal information about the biology of head lice and methods to eliminate infestations will be provided to the family. Parents will be invited to come to the Health Suite at the end of the school day to receive information as well as a demonstration regarding the identification of lice and nits.
- Students may return to school following treatment and can be checked by the school nurse, per the family's request. Students who have lice or nits will not be prohibited from attending school.

If an isolated case of lice is identified, there will be no written notification to parents of the individual student's classmates. Universal screening of students will not be conducted unless several students from a specific grade are identified as having lice. In situations where a large group of students requires head checks, a letter/email will be sent to those families from the Health Suite.