

## **Refugio ISD Lice Prevention, Control, and Treatment**

Refugio ISD has updated it's Lice Prevention, Control, and Treatment Policy.

Head lice are common for children ages 3-12 years of age. Head lice are not a health hazard and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. The goal of lice prevention and control is to limit the spread of lice from one student to another student through early detection, consistent communication, and education. To meet this challenge, lice control takes teamwork between home and school.

### **Initial Identification of Infestation**

- Screening will be done on an individual basis for students reporting or demonstrating symptoms (i.e. lice visible in hair, scratching scalp). According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) current evidence does not support the efficacy and cost effectiveness of classroom or school wide screening for decreasing the incidence of head lice among school children. Students will be sent to nurse's office for inspection.
- All staff members will be familiar with the signs and symptoms of lice infestation. Detection or suspicion of lice or nits should be promptly reported to the School Nurse.
- Teaching Staff should survey the classroom environment regularly for students displaying signs of lice or items in the classroom that could be contributing to the spread of lice.
- Cases of lice should be confirmed by the School Nurse.

### **Live Lice and Nits**

- Students identified with live lice or viable nits, (nits within  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of scalp) visualized by the school nurse or trained designee will be referred to their parent/guardian for treatment. The parent/guardian will need to pick up their child from school if live bugs are found to be treated and return to school free of live bugs.
- Parents/Guardians will be advised to treat their child for head lice. Educational materials about treatment and prevention will be given and explained.
- Parents/Guardians need to make lice screening a part of their family routine. Parents should be encouraged to check their children's head at least weekly. Individuals with whom the family has close contact should be notified by the parents/guardians to ensure proper precautions are taken.
- Alert letters will be sent home, in the event 50% or greater of students in a given classroom are infested, and only to the parents of children within that specific classroom. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to screen and treat their child.
- Students identified with nits only will have their parent/guardian contacted by the school nurse to see if treatment has taken place within the last seven days.
- Education about nit removal and prevention of lice will be provided to the parent/guardian.

### **Requirements for Readmission to School**

- Students may return to school the day after being treated or the day of treatment if they return and no live lice are found by the school nurse. The parent/guardian must sign the treatment verification checklist and return it to the school nurse or trained designee when the student returns to school. Successful treatment should kill live lice, but nits sometimes persist after initial treatment. The parent/guardian should be advised that a second treatment 7-10 days after the first treatment is necessary, and be advised to remove nits daily.
- The School Nurse will provide health teaching to students, staff, and parents/guardians regarding prevention, detection and treatment of lice as needed.

### **Classroom Lice Control**

- Sweaters, backpacks, and coats should be hung separately on hooks and not touching. Sweaters, coats and hats can often be placed in each student's backpack.
- Students' personal items (combs, brushes, hats, scarves, sweaters, coats, etc.) are not to be shared.
- Carpet is vacuumed after live lice confirmation. Carpet should be vacuumed daily and floors should be swept daily.
- Nap items (pillows, blankets, towels, etc.) should be stored separately in the student's cubby and should be taken home at least weekly to be washed. Do not allow piling of coats.
- Reading corners with carpet areas or shared pillows can facilitate the spread of lice and should be limited, especially during periods of known lice infestation in the class.
- Headphones are to be wiped with disinfectant after each student's use.
- Students should be observed carefully for symptoms of head lice infestation (e. i. lice visible in hair, scratching of head and neck). Do NOT indicate that a student may have lice/nits in the presence of other students. Early detection of cases will limit the spread.
- Encourage health and hygiene by stressing the importance of each student only using his or her own hair care items and not sharing other student's hats, scarves, and headphones.

### **Resources/References**

Centers for Disease control (CDC)

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Texas Administrative Code