



Head Lice Protocol: Procedures and Classroom Management

The lice management policies of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District are guided by the California Public Health Department (CDPH), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN).

The district's head lice surveillance and control approach is based on sound scientific research and best practices. We believe that sharing information about head lice infestations should be done only on a "need-to-know" basis, and we take student privacy very seriously, complying with all federal privacy laws. We also understand that it is essential to consider each student's developmental level and ability to understand their head lice status.

The exclusion of a child from school can adversely affect their emotional, social, and academic well-being and often stigmatizes the child unnecessarily. In addition, transmission of head lice in the classroom setting is low. Therefore, CDPH recommends that children should not be excluded from the classroom based on finding head lice or nits.

For the effective control of head lice in schools and child care facilities, CDPH recommends a multipronged approach:

- Early detection of head lice infestations through routine screening by parents and caregivers.
- Treatment of children found to have live lice.
- Distribution of educational material on head lice, nit combing, and treatment. CDPH's [head lice flyer](#) and [fact sheet](#). Parents or guardians are directed to visit the [CDPH Head Lice webpage](#) for additional information.

SRVUSD Lice Communication and Education:

- *For the parent or guardian of a student that has lice, see [Treating Lice Parent Letter: A Parent's Guide to Head Lice](#)*
- *For a school site needing to communicate a classroom lice case, see [Lice Classroom Notification Letter](#)*

PROCEDURES

For Live Lice

- If lice are seen on a child at school, parents or guardians should be notified and emailed the following document. [Treating Lice Parent Letter: A Parent's Guide to Head Lice](#). The student does not need to be immediately sent home.
- At home, all members of the family or household should be checked for head lice, and those with lice should be treated that night.
- The child should check in with the front office the day following treatment. Office staff will confirm treatment was completed and then admit the student to class.
 - If the student was not treated they should return home until treatment is completed.
 - If the child is found to still be infested, the parent or guardian should be contacted again.
- If a student has either (1) chronic head lice infestation or (2) severe head lice infestation that is disruptive to the learning environment, the school site administrator and school nurse will contact the family to offer support and resources.

For Nits Only (no live lice detected):

- If a child has nits at school, parents or guardians should be notified at the end of the school day and emailed the following document. [Treating Lice Parent Letter: A Parent's Guide to Head Lice](#)
- School staff should refer parents and guardians to the section in the letter that addresses [nit combing](#).
- Parents are encouraged to check family members for lice.



Environmental Control:

Adult lice will die within two days without a blood meal. In a classroom where head lice are found, actions should be taken, if possible, to reduce head-to-head contact.

- Students will be encouraged to separate personal items (coats, jackets, etc.).
- Students will be encouraged to avoid sharing hats, combs, and pillows, although transmission through shared objects is rare.
- Pesticide application to the school or home environment is not recommended.
- For treating household items, see [Guidance on Head Lice Prevention and Control for School Districts and Child Care Facilities](#)
- School personnel will not routinely perform classroom (or sibling) checks on all students.

Notification Procedures

1. The school office will notify the parent by phone that their student has live lice and provide the lice management guidelines. ([Treating Lice Parent Letter: A Parent's Guide to Head Lice](#))
2. The school office or classroom teacher will send a notification letter to the parents of students in an elementary classroom. Classroom Notification at the secondary level is at the discretion of the school's site nurse.

Exclusion Procedures

1. If a student has either (1) chronic head lice infestation or (2) severe head lice infestation that is disruptive to the learning environment, the school site administrator and school nurse will contact the family to offer support and resources.
2. The school nurse will consider excluding the student with consultation with the site administrator.
3. It may be appropriate to monitor lice management's progress over time to support the family in eradicating the lice.

For additional information on head lice, please refer to the following websites:

- CDPH: [Head Lice: What You Need to Know](#)
- CDC: [Head Lice](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics: Head Lice](#)