



BISD Lice Protocol

Bastrop ISD acts in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and the Texas Department of State Health Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses, in the treatment and attendance guidelines for lice in the school setting.

The scientific evidence supports that exclusion from school for lice is not indicated. The best treatment is prevention. Checking your child's hair weekly throughout the school year and after overnight visits with other children can help with early identification and treatment. Educate your children to avoid the spread of lice by no head-to-head contact, sharing hats, combs, brushes, etc. Lice eggs (nits) not killed by treatments may continue to hatch for 7-10 days. All nits should be removed to prevent re-infestation.

Initial Identification of Infestation

Students found with live head lice **do not** need to be sent home early from school. They can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to school after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill live lice.

Cases of lice should be confirmed by the RN, LVN or trained BISD staff.

Readmittance to campus after lice are found

Students returning to school after treatment should be brought in by parent or guardian to be re-examined by the school nurse. In lieu of bringing the student in the next day for recheck, proof of treatment (by parent/guardian) is encouraged. If signs of infestation are still noted, further education and/or counseling will be given to parent/guardian regarding treatment and nit removal.

Following the recommendation from DSHS, BISD **will not** exclude students from school if nits are found after treatment. According to DSHS “Head lice infestation is a social issue not a health threat.” “No-nit” policies place a disproportionate amount of emphasis on head lice management than on real health concerns, which should be a higher priority. This



over-emphasis can lead to unproductive use of time by school staff and parents, missed classes, unnecessary absences, and parents missing work.”

On a case-by-case basis, actions may differ from the guidelines with collaboration from Health Services.

In accordance with guidance from the National Association of School Nurses as well as American Academy of Pediatrics, BISD will not conduct classroom checks for lice. Additional information can be found at [NASN Head Lice Management in Schools](#) and [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

Notification of Lice at school

BISD will notify parents/guardians of students found with head lice within 48 hours. Parents/guardians of students within the elementary classroom, where head lice is identified, will be notified within 5 days in accordance with Senate Bill 1566.

The following are links containing information regarding head lice, treatment, and prevention. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student’s campus nurse.

[CDC parent recommendations to treat and prevent head lice](#)

[TEA fact sheet with links](#)

[Senate Bill 1566](#)

[DSHS, Managing Head Lice in School Settings and at Home \(eng & span\)](#)

References and Resources:

American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/135/5/e1355/33653/Head-Lice>

Texas Department of State Health Services <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/schoolhealth/lice.shtm>