

BASTROP INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES
For the Management of Pediculosis (Lice)
Updated 2013

Effective December 20, 2012, the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) was revised to eliminate “live head lice” from the list of communicable diseases requiring exclusion from the schools. In accordance with the revised TAC, recommendations from the Texas Department of State Health Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Bastrop ISD Student Health Advisory Council, Bastrop ISD has updated its’ Procedural Guidelines for the Management of Pediculosis (Lice) to reflect the most current guidelines in the control of lice.

Head lice are indiscriminate of age, sex, ethnicity and cleanliness. Each year they infest between 6-12 million people in the United States alone. Next to the common cold, it is the most frequently diagnosed childhood affliction. Head lice are not a health hazard and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. They are the cause of much embarrassment, misunderstanding, and many unnecessary days lost from work and school. Lice do not jump or fly. However, they do move quickly and spread from child to child in any group setting by close physical contact, by the sharing of head covering (i.e.: caps or helmets) and combs, or by the close proximity of clothing.

The Bastrop ISD procedural guidelines for the management of lice are as follows:

1. If a child is suspected of head lice, he/she will be referred to the nurse for an individual screening to detect signs and symptoms of lice infestation and to preserve the dignity of the student.
2. Parents of students identified with live lice and/or nits will be contacted by phone and the students will remain in class until the end of the school day.
3. Parents will be given instructions to treat the student with a lice killing shampoo, which may be purchased over-the-counter at any drug store. Continuous and thorough nit removal following treatment is essential. A follow-up shampoo treatment in 6-10 days may be necessary. The leading causes of ineffective lice treatment are (1) the use of conditioner following use of lice shampoo and (2) inadequate nit removal.
4. Clothing and the home environment need to be treated at the same time the student is treated for lice. Nits are hardy and will survive without a host, therefore it is important to:
 - a. Wash or dry clean recently used clothing including coats, scarves and towels. Sheets and pillowcases should also be washed in hot water.
 - b. Thoroughly vacuum carpets, mattresses, upholstered furniture and car.
 - c. Place items that cannot be washed (i.e. stuffed animals, blankets and hair accessories) in a sealed plastic bag for two weeks.
 - d. Wash hairbrushes and combs in hot water (130 degrees Fahrenheit).

- e. Check and treat all family members at the same time.
- 5. Students returning to school after treatment will need to be examined by the school nurse before being admitted to class. If signs of infestation are noted, special care will be given parents to review lice treatment and nit removal.
- 6. Parents/guardians should persist in checking their child following an infestation of lice. The most effective safe guard against lice is a routine head check for nits by parents at home.
- 7. Students will be taught by nurses and should be reminded by parents to avoid:
 - a. Sharing combs, hairbrushes or hair accessories.
 - b. Sharing hats, baseball caps, soccer helmets or other headgear.
 - c. Prolonged head-to-head contact.
 - d. Sleeping in the same bed with a relative or friend who has lice.
- 8. Treatment of head lice should never be done with toxic or flammable household products such as kerosene, gasoline, paint thinner, turpentine, bleach, other household cleaners or pesticides intended for use on insects or animals. These products are highly dangerous and could result in illness or death of the child.

References:

- 1. 25 Texas Administrative Code Section 97.7, December 20, 2012
- 2. Texas Department of State Health Services, February 1, 2013
- 3. American Academy of Pediatrics, 2010
- 4. Bastrop Independent School District Student Health Advisory Council, April 11, 2013