



OPELIKA

CITY SCHOOLS

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS) GUIDELINES

Head lice are not a communicable disease and no known health risks have been associated with infestations according to The Centers for Disease and Control. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school does not result in getting head lice. Exclusion from school can adversely affect students emotionally, socially, and academically. School Nurses, who have the most understanding in the school setting, will advocate for evidence-based prevention and teaching.

If a student is suspected of having head lice, the following will take place:

1. A school nurse will check the student while ensuring the student's confidentiality and privacy.
2. Once a case is confirmed, the school will call the parent/guardian and notify them of OCS head lice protocol and treatment measures.
3. If the parent/guardian chooses not to pick the student up, the student will be allowed to finish the school day and be sent home on their usual transportation.
4. Students may return to school the day after treatment has begun. A second treatment may be necessary 7-10 days after initial treatment, please follow product instructions. Nits may remain present and a daily nit check by parent/guardian is recommended for at least 10 days following treatment.
5. Head lice rechecks will be performed at the discretion of the school nurse.
6. School wide and classroom screenings are not recommended. However, sibling screenings may be conducted at the discretion of the school nurse.
7. Further action for repeated head lice infestations, with no evidence of treatment, will be conducted by the school nurse and school principal on a case by case basis.
8. If several cases of head lice occur in the same classroom, the principal may choose to send a letter home notifying parents that a case of head lice is suspected as well as asking parents to check all of their children for head lice.