



Dawson County Schools

28 Main Street
Dawsonville, GA 30534
(706) 265-3246
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www.dawsoncountyschools.org
Dr. Damon Gibbs
Superintendent

Board Members:
Elaine W. Wilson, Chairperson
Doris N. Cook, Vice-Chairperson
William S. Wade
Karen M. Armstrong
Roger D. Slaton

Head Lice Management Guidelines

These guidelines have been implemented to aide the staff of Dawson County Schools in identifying and taking appropriate action when cases of Head Lice are identified.

If a member of the school staff suspects a child is infested with **nits or live head lice**, the following procedures should be followed:

- The child should be screened by a staff member (school nurse, teacher, paraprofessional) to confirm live lice or nit infestation.
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- **The parents of the child must be contacted.** Take this the opportunity to educate the parent on Lice removal and prevention.
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- If only nits/eggs are found, the child may return to class but should be restricted from activities involving close contact.
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- If **live lice are found**, the parent must **pick up the child**.
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- Send home the “Head lice or nits have been found on your child,” parent letter, in addition to education for treatment of head lice. See attached.
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- Students sent home with live lice must be screened by a staff member (school nurse, teacher, paraprofessional) before returning to the classroom the next school day. A student should not miss more than one consecutive school day due to head lice.

**Please note, if the parent cannot be reached or cannot pick up the child, the child may return to class and should be restricted from activities involving close contact. The child may ride the school bus home. Transmission via school bus seats is not likely because of the biology of head lice.

If **3 or more live cases are found in the same classroom within the 7-10 day lifecycle the “case found in the classroom” parent letter (see attachment #1) and written information on head lice treatment (see attachment #2) should be sent home notifying classmates’ parents that a case of head lice is suspected and asking them to check all of their children for head lice.



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To Prevent Transmission:

- Teach children not to share or use their friends' combs, brushes, hair ornaments, hats, caps, scarves, headphones with foam protectors, coats, pillows, or any other personal headgear.
- If possible, provide separate lockers or "cubby holes" for each child's coat and clothing. Consider separate plastic bags for each child to put their personal items in before hanging on hooks if no lockers are available.
- Teach children to place their hats, mittens/scarves, and coats/jackets inside Backpacks before hanging on hooks.
- Begin head lice education within the classrooms so that children can understand head lice and what they can do to help prevent the spread of lice.

Tips for Cleaning the School Environment

- Vacuum all floors, rugs, pillows, carpet squares, and upholstered furniture. There is no need to discard the vacuum bag after cleaning.
- Combs and brushes used on an infected individual should be immersed in water hotter than 130°F, Lysol, rubbing alcohol or a pediculicide for one hour.
- Play clothes, linens, smocks, and cloth toys that are worn or handled by an infested the individual within two days before diagnosis should be washed in water hotter than 130°F, or machine dried at the highest heat setting for at least 30 minutes.
- Other articles may be dry cleaned or sealed in a plastic bag for at least 14 days at room temperature or 24 hours below freezing temperatures. This is an extra precaution as research indicates lice are not viable after 48-72 hours without a blood meal.
- It is NOT necessary to hire an exterminator.
- Spraying or fogging schools with insecticides are NOT RECOMMENDED and maybe harmful if used in a poorly ventilated area.
- Shared headgear, headphones, and/or helmets should be cleaned and disinfected with Lysol® or rubbing alcohol before being used by other people.



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Roles and Responsibilities

Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children:

- Assisting in the prevention and management of head lice cases through regular checks of their children's hair
- Picking students up from school when live lice have been found.
- Starting immediate treatment when head lice are detected.
- Effective treatment can be difficult and takes perseverance on the part of the parent/guardian, and also excellent communication and screening on the part of the school. Keep in mind that the family's understanding and ability to comply will be affected by factors such as emotional state, literacy level, culture, language/communication skills, previous experience, the vision of the caregiver and the condition of housing. Families should receive appropriate education about lice prevention/treatment and be made aware of available resources. If conflict situations arise, the infested student's parents should be advised to talk with their school nurse, school counselor, or social worker about their concerns and treatment options.

School communities have responsibility for:

- Developing school guidelines to support prevention and control.
- Designating an individual, such as the social worker or lead school nurse to evaluate chronic cases within the school and/or school district that will work together with their local health department to achieve compliance with the school's lice guidelines.
- Disseminating current information on head lice, **see attachment #2**
- Holding educational sessions for parents and children.
- Alerting parents when cases have been identified and urging regular head checks at home – **mass screenings are no longer considered necessary.**
- Currently, there is no scientific evidence demonstrating that enforced exclusion policies are effective for reducing head lice transmission.

Documents to support these recommendations can be found in the Georgian Head lice Manual

Attachment #1

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4L5zx5g25vdazFMYkxvenF4U2ROZ1NqemdMV3VIMDdZYTR3/view?usp=sharing>

Attachment #2

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9cn3H6MvlvVdIjva3Y3RjYxNm41NHNoYmdKM1IkMWkRkREow/view?usp=sharing>