



Lake Oconee Academy Nursing Standing Orders: Lice Policy 2023-2024 School Year

PLAN:

Head lice are small wingless insects that live on the human scalp. They do not jump or fly, but crawl very fast. An adult louse lays several nits or eggs which are very tiny and hard to see. Nits are attached to the hair with a glue-like substance unlike dandruff which flakes away. Nits are mostly found on the nape of the neck and behind the ears. Nits hatch in 7-10 days causing a large head lice infestation.

TREATMENT:

If lice are present, the student should be kept at home and treated at least once and all live lice removed. Nits should be removed to the best of your ability, a metal comb works better than the plastic combs. You should check your student daily for 14 days to be sure no lice have hatched. Your routine prevention should include head checks each weekend. Also, be sure to tell your student not to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves, or other clothing.

HOME TREATMENT

Wash all bed linens and pillows in hot water. Place in the dryer. Vacuum mattress or mattress pad. Wash clothes worn, hats, and other washable items in hot water. Vacuum carpet, cloth furniture, and seats of cars.

Place all stuffed animals or cloth items unable to wash in an airtight bag for 2 weeks.

If lice are found during school hours, parents will be notified by the school nurse. Parents may pick up their student (excused checkout) or have them remain at school following their normal pick up routine. For students with long hair who remain at school their hair will be pulled back into a ponytail. Siblings of the student will also be checked by the school nurse.

Upon return to school, post lice treatment, the student will be reassessed by the school nurse to assure no live lice are present and nits have been removed to the best of their ability.

To best check for lice, good lighting is necessary. Direct sunlight or fluorescent lighting is best.

CDC GUIDELINES:

[CDC-Lice Information for Parents](#)

You should examine your child's head, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck, for crawling lice and nits if your child exhibits symptoms of a head lice infestation. If crawling lice or nits are found, all household members should be examined for crawling lice and nits every 2–3 days. Persons with live (crawling) lice or nits within ¼ inch or less of the scalp should be treated.

Students diagnosed 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 class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice.

Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) advocate that “no-nit” policies should be discontinued. “No-nit” policies that require a child to be free of nits before they can return to schools should be discontinued for the following reasons:

Many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp. Such nits are usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as ‘casings’. Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people. The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice. Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.

RESOURCES:

Lice Treatment services-The Lice Ladies Athens (in Watkinsville) provides excellent service.
1-888-324-LICE (5423)