

EDGERTON DISTRICT #581

Health Related Services- 507-442-7881

STUDENT HEAD LICE POLICY

Edgerton Public and surrounding schools are consistent in their approach to head lice management. Like most schools in Minnesota, we have adopted a “no live lice” policy. What this means is that children with live lice are sent home to be treated. Once treated, the child is allowed back into school even if some nits remain in the hair. Citing recommendations by a variety of medical organizations including the American Association of Pediatrics, the National School Nurse Association, and the Centers for Disease Control, most schools in this area do not send kids home after treatment if nits remain (which is called a “no nit policy”).

Occasionally head lice becomes an issue in our schools. It is important that parents have accurate, current health information regarding head lice. While head lice is a huge nuisance, requiring extensive shampooing, removal of nits, laundry, cleaning and vacuuming at home, lice are communicable but do not spread disease. Anyone can get head lice, but they are commonly spread by younger children who have more head to head contact. Sharing of stocking hats and sleep-overs are common settings in which head lice can be spread. Please check your child’s head frequently throughout the year. The most important part of getting rid of head lice is to make sure all of the nits or eggs are removed before they have a chance to hatch. If you suspect lice on your child (excessive itching of the scalp), the school nurse can check your child. Once your child has been treated at home for head lice, he/she will be admitted to class. An information sheet will be sent home. All parents will be notified if head lice is discovered in their child’s classroom. While we know kids all ride the bus together and sibling groups span several classes, we use caution to not cause undue panic. Please note: contrary to what the lice products may claim, they do NOT kill all of the nits present. Nits need to be manually removed, either with a lice comb (metal combs work best) or by picking them out.

As an FYI, Edgerton Public schools operate on a lice-free basis, with occasional outbreaks as opposed to schools that have chronic lice issues.