



AMADOR COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
HEALTH SERVICES

(209) 257-5705
217 Rex Avenue, Jackson, CA 95642 | www.amadorcoe.org

ACOE/ACUSD HEAD LICE GUIDANCE & PROTOCOL

Historical Context

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) historically emphasized a "no nit policy," which required students with head lice to remain out of school until all nits (eggs or egg casings) were removed from their hair. However, there is no evidence that such policies prevent or shorten outbreaks. Excluding students based on these policies can harm their emotional, social, and academic well-being and may unjustly stigmatize them. Current research shows that head lice transmission in classroom settings is minimal. Consequently, organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) no longer endorse or recommend "no nit policies" for schools.

Guidance

The CDPH provides [Guidance on Head Lice Prevention and Control for K-12 Schools and Child Care Facilities](#).

[ACOE & ACUSD Board Policy 5141.33](#) aligns with this guidance and does not support excluding students from school due to head lice infestations.

The following protocol outlines the appropriate steps for addressing head lice in school settings.

Protocol

Prevention:

ACOE & ACUSD schools may distribute educational materials to parents and guardians of preschool and elementary school students, including information about routine screenings, symptoms, and treatment of head lice. Suggested resources include:

- [CDPH Head Lice Flyer](#)
- [CDPH Head Lice Fact Sheet](#)

Treatment:

If a student is identified as having active head lice:

1. Immediate Action:
 - Allow the student to remain in school until the end of the day.
2. Parental Notification:
 - Inform the parent/guardian about the infestation.
 - Provide educational materials, including:
 - [CDPH Head Lice Flyer](#)
 - [How-To Guide for Nit Combing](#)
 - [CDC - Head Lice](#)

3. School Attendance:

- **CDC & CDPH Guidelines:** According to the CDC and CDPH, students cannot be excluded from school due to head lice. While the school will continue to reach out to the parent/guardian to offer support, under no circumstances should the student be told they cannot attend.
- **Parental Discretion:** Although exclusion from school is not permitted, parents are encouraged to use their discretion regarding their student's condition and whether or not they should stay home from school.
- **Contact Information:** For further information, parents/guardians can contact Health Services at (209) 257-5705.

4. Chronic Infestation:

- If a student is consistently infested, they may be referred to a multidisciplinary team. This team may include representatives from Health Services, the school, the local health department, social services, and other relevant personnel to address factors contributing to the infestation, resources and support for the family..

Notification:

At the principal's or designee's discretion, parents of students in the same class or school must be notified if one or more students are identified with head lice. [Here is a Head Lice Notification Letter for school sites to use for this purpose.](#) Information about detection and treatment will be shared using the resources provided in this protocol.

Privacy:

The privacy of students identified with head lice must be protected by all school staff and representatives of ACOE & ACUSD.

Resources

If a student does not have resources to effectively treat head lice, please reach out to the Health & Wellness Coordinator at (209) 304-3082 or (209) 257-5705 to discuss support that may be available to assist in these cases.

CDC Guidance - [Head Lice](#)

CDPH Guidance - [Head Lice - What You Need to Know](#)

For additional guidance or questions, contact your School Nurse or Health Services at **(209) 257-5705**.