

HEAD LICE

It is the policy of Avery County Board of Education to provide a clean and safe environment for student learning. The following procedure lists steps to follow when the possibility of head lice in the student population is suspected. It is the responsibility of each school to respond to the concern of head lice in a timely, student-centered manner. Head lice are a nuisance, but can be treated easily. They do not carry disease and are not a cause for alarm.

It is recommended that each school conduct a case by case head lice check on an as needed basis. In-service regarding policy, detection and treatment can be scheduled for individual Avery County Schools by contacting the school nurse.

Students found with live head lice should be excluded for the remainder of the day and referred to their parents or guardians for treatment. The student may return to school the day after treatment. The student must receive a second treatment according to the directions of the pediculicide (lice shampoo). Because no disease process is associated with head lice, schools are not advised to exclude students when nits or eggs remain after appropriate lice treatment. Students will be re-screened at school after treatment (to ensure all live lice are gone) and then again in 7 – 10 days to ensure no additional lice are found. If live lice are found during re-screening the student will be excluded from school for the remainder of the day and again referred to their parents or guardians for treatment.

Current data does not support school exclusions for just the presence of nits or eggs. Those students with head lice should be treated promptly by their parent or guardian to minimize the continued occurrence or re-occurrence. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure correct application of shampoo product and follow through with treatment upon recommendation as provided by pharmacist, physician or school nurse.

Revised: 12/10/19