


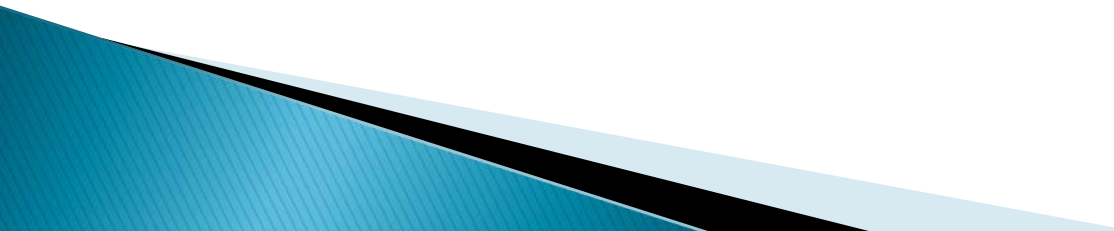
Updated Lice Policy 2012

Newhall School District
Health Programs

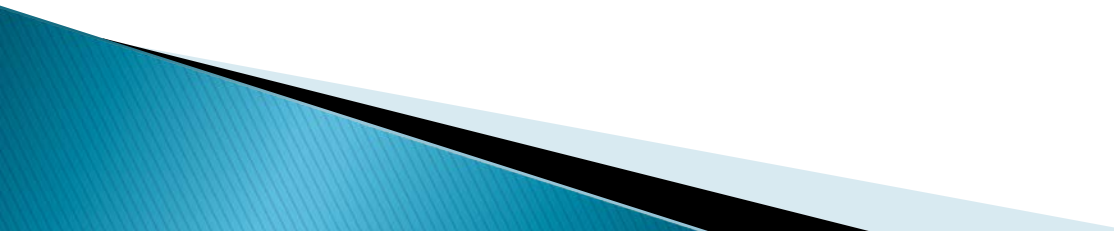
Why do we have the current 'no lice' policy?

- ▶ Current science does not support the 'no nit' policy
 - ▶ Not recommended by California Dept. of Public Health Division of Communicable Disease Control (March 2012)
 - ▶ Not recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics 2002, 2009
 - ▶ Not recommended by the CDC 2004
 - ▶ Not recommended by the National Association of School Nurses 2004
 - ▶ Not recommended by the Harvard School of Public Health 2000
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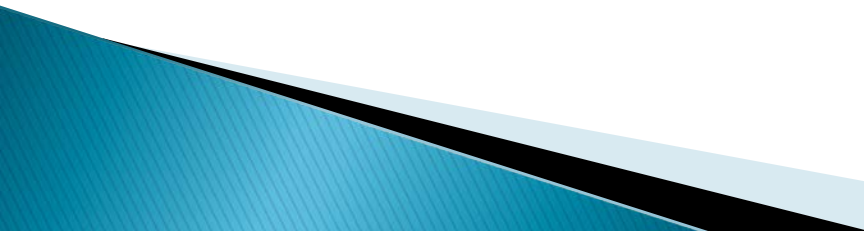
Additional Reasons for Change

- ▶ Reduce unnecessary absenteeism and missed class time.
 - ▶ Avoid unnecessary social stigma
 - ▶ Decrease unnecessary work for the health assistants and office staff.
 - ▶ Parents have access to current practice standards via the internet.
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Lice are considered a Nuisance

- ▶ Lice are not known to spread disease (CDC)
 - ▶ Head lice are not considered a public health hazard (CDC)
 - ▶ Lice are equal opportunity parasites – they infest across all socio-economic lines
 - ▶ Unfortunately they carry a social stigma. The school community can help to reduce this impact.
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Head Lice Review (Harvard SPH)

- ▶ Head lice are small parasitic insects that live on the scalp and neck hairs of their human hosts.
 - ▶ 6–12 million infestations occur annually
 - ▶ Head lice derive nutrients by blood-feeding from a person's scalp at least once a day.
 - ▶ They cannot survive more than a day or two at room temperature without ready access to a person's blood.
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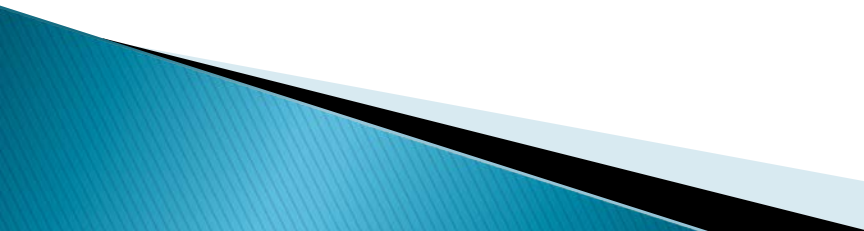
Head Lice Review (Harvard SPH)

- ▶ The nymph louse hatches after 8 days as a nit and begins to feed.
- ▶ The nymph will reach adulthood within 9–12 days and the female louse will be able to lay eggs after it reaches adulthood.
- ▶ The adult female may deposit up to 100 eggs in her lifetime at a rate of 6 per day
- ▶ Only the inseminated female's eggs will hatch
- ▶ An infested person usually has fewer than 12 active live lice on the scalp at any one time, but may have hundreds of viable, dead or hatched eggs (nits).
- ▶ Only the live lice indicate in active infestation

How are Lice passed?

- ▶ Lice do NOT jump, fly or hop. They can only crawl.
- ▶ Lice are not passed on pets.
- ▶ **Lice are passed by direct head-to-head contact.**
- ▶ Spread through contact with personal belongings (comb, hats) is possible, but much less likely. Lice on combs are likely to be injured or dead. A healthy louse will not leave the human head (AAP)

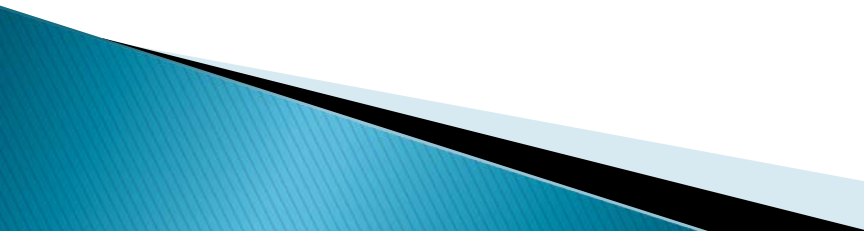
Are lice mostly spread through school?

- ▶ NO!
 - ▶ Sleep-overs among friends and relatives are thought to be the most common way they are passed home-to-home.
 - ▶ Parent's discomfort in telling other parents when they have lice is a big challenge in controlling the spread.
 - ▶ School-wide head checks are not recommended by the CDC or the California Dept of Public Health.
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An interesting fact:

- ▶ Once the infestation is found (usually by the presence of itching), most cases of lice are already a month old.

Treatment

- ▶ A variety of lice shampoos are available over-the-counter or from a physician.
 - ▶ Manual nit removal by fine tooth combs is recommended, although some of the newer shampoos and the prescription shampoos kill all lice and eggs and nit removal is not necessary.
 - ▶ Students should never be treated with chemical shampoos 'just in case'.
 - ▶ Checking at 7–10 days post treatment for re-infestation may be done.
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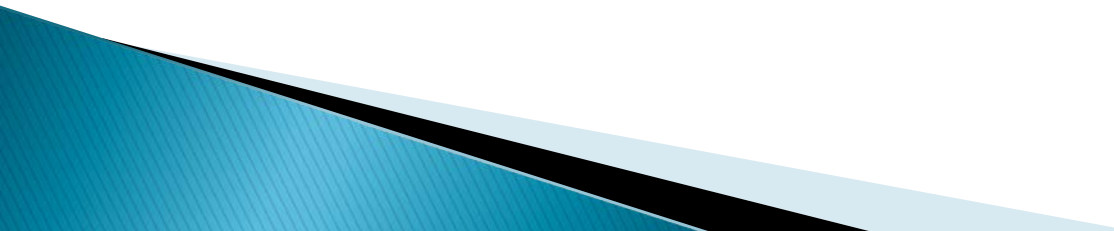
When can the student return to school?

- ▶ A child should be allowed to return to school after proper treatment with a lice shampoo (AAP)
 - ▶ Excluding children from school because of head lice is not recommended (CDC)
 - ▶ Schools are not advised to exclude students when nits remain after appropriate lice treatment (NASN)
 - ▶ ‘It is our professional opinion that no-nit policies are imprudent, as they are based on intolerance, hysteria and misinformation rather than on objective science’ (Harvard SPH)
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NSD Lice Policy

- ▶ Prevention:
 - Only siblings will be screened
 - A parent letter will go home to the affected classroom requesting they check their student.
 - Teachers should encourage limited head-to-head contact.
- ▶ Control
 - Educational materials will be given to the family.
 - The student will be re-checked after 7-10 days until clear.
 - Persistent infestations will be referred to the District Nurse.
 - Classrooms will only be screened if more than 1 case is reported or as deemed necessary by the District Nurse.

Lice Policy Documents

- ▶ NSD Lice Policy and Procedure
 - ▶ NSD Flowchart for Managing Presumed Head Lice Infestations
 - ▶ Parent Notification Letter
 - ▶ Instructions for Treatment and Control
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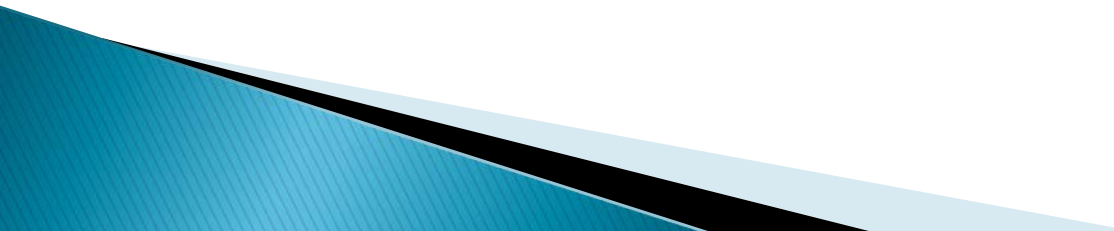
What can we do to limit lice infestations at school?

- ▶ Give parents information about lice treatment
 - ▶ Notify district nurse of recurring lice cases
 - ▶ Limit head to head contact
 - ▶ Provide wipes to clean headphones between students
 - ▶ Instruct students not to share combs, brushes, hair accessories, hats or clothing
 - ▶ Assist parents who need financial help obtaining shampoo and lice combs when possible
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What We Need From You

- ▶ Professionalism
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Collaboration with Nursing

Just as teachers use research based instructional techniques and materials to achieve best outcomes, so do nurses use evidence based practice to ensure the health and safety of children at school.



References

- ▶ California Department of Public Health (2012). www.cdph.ca.gov
- ▶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC), (2010). www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/prevent.html
- ▶ Harvard School of Public Health(2010). www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html
- ▶ American Academy of Pediatrics (2010). www.aap.org
- ▶ National Academy of School Nurses Position of exclusion of students for headlice.