

## School District #243

### Head Lice Policy

Head lice are very small insects that live only on human hair. They are considered a “nuisance” disease, meaning they do not cause illness or death.

Because they can easily transfer from person to person, on hats, combs, barrettes, etc. Head lice are termed a “communicable disease.”

All children suspected of having a communicable disease must be immediately excluded from school.

Any child suspected of having head lice will be sent home immediately.

The child may not return to school until treated with a proper medicated shampoo.

The family may take the child to their private physician or the North Central Health District, or the family may decide to purchase a pediculicide (special shampoo for head lice) at the local pharmacy or grocery store.

The child, family members, and other close contacts should be treated with the proper medicated shampoo carefully following the manufacturers recommended guidelines.

After treatment, the eggs (nits) should be removed either with a fine tooth comb or by manually pulling them from the hair shaft.

The family will be provided with the information regarding the treatment of other family members, contacts, and the home environment.

The child will be readmitted when school personnel feel that the child has received adequate treatment, which includes a note from the child’s parent or physician stating that the child’s head was shampooed with a medicated shampoo.

Children experiencing repeated problems with head lice may be excluded from school until the child is nit free.