

Significant Contagious Diseases – Head Lice

The Dickinson Public Schools will focus on the exclusion of active infestations only. Active infestations can be defined as the presence of live lice.

Teachers and or parents may request that a student be checked for lice, based on excessive head scratching, sores on the head caused by scratching, student report of a “crawling” or “tickling” feeling or sensation of something moving in the hair, irritability and sleeplessness and/or observation of suspected lice and/or eggs.

Head lice screening shall take place in an area that protects the student’s privacy.

Treatment should be considered only if active lice or viable eggs (less than ¼ inch from scalp) are observed.

The child’s parent or guardian shall be notified the day of the discovery, preferably by telephone, stating that prompt and proper treatment of this condition is requested. Information shall be provided to the parent/guardian regarding treatment (such as ND Division of Disease Control fact sheet “What Do I Need to Know? [North Dakota Department of Health Head Lice Fact Sheet](#) and/or North Dakota [Department of Health What Do I Need to Know?](#) If after [treatment](#) and upon re-examination the school designated screening personnel find no live lice on the student, the child may be readmitted to the school.

Student with continued or reoccurring evidence of live lice and/or severe or chronic cases of active infestation will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and may be sent home at the discretion of the school screening staff with approval from the school administration. Screening siblings or children living in the same household, and/or other children who have been in close head to head contact with the identified positive case student may be notified utilizing appropriate discretion. Classroom wide or school wide screening is not recommended.

If there are more than 20% of the students in the classroom positively identified with live lice a letter will be sent home with the students in the classroom. Staff will protect the privacy of the affected student(s) in accordance with HIPPA regulations to prevent stigmatization and maintain the student’s privacy as well as the family’s right to confidentiality.

School administration will determine the selection and number of designated head lice screening staff in the school district. School screening staff will be trained in screening techniques, identification of head lice, treatment options, guidelines, recommendations and school policy and procedure by a qualified or experienced professional.

Parents will receive information about head lice diagnosis, treatment, and prevention throughout the school year.

School District may contact their local health department for consultation and technical assistance on individual cases.