4.38

CONTAGIOUS CONDITIONS/HEAD LICE

Title 70, Section 1210.194 of the Oklahoma Statutes provides that “Any child afflicted with a contagious disease or head lice may be prohibited from attending a public, private or parochial school until such time as he is free from the contagious disease or head lice.”

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard students and school personnel from contagious diseases and from an outbreak of pediculosis (head lice).

# **CONTAGIOUS CONDITIONS**

CPS may exclude from school any student with a contagious condition that presents a significant risk of infection to other students or school personnel in the school environment.

Before returning to school, the student may be required to present a certificate from a health professional or an authorized representative of the Oklahoma State Health Department, verifying that the student no longer presents a significant risk of infection to other students and school personnel in the school environment.

After the student returns to school, a health team member may periodically check the student. Should a reinfection occur that presents a significant risk of infection to other students or school personnel in the school environment, the student may again be excluded from school.

**PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)**

CPS does not advocate the exclusionof students from school, but rather supports a cooperative effort between parents and the schools. However, the ultimate responsibility for head lice treatment and control lies with the parent/guardian.

If a student is determined to have live lice, school personnel will contact the parent/guardian, and the student will be sent home with educational materials, detailing proper treatment and methods of nit removal. If nits, but no live lice, are found, the child may remain at school for the remainder of the school day, and school personnel will contact the parent and provide instructions and educational materials.

In both cases, the student is expected to return on the next school day after shampoo treatment and nit removal have been accomplished.

The parent/guardian will present the student at school for a re-check on the next school day and remain present until the student has been cleared to re-enter.

If significant improvement has occurred and no live lice/nits are found during the re-check, the health team member may allow the student to return to school.

In cases of severe infestation, inability of the family to rid the student of infestation, chronic infestation, repeated infestation (re-infestation of the same student more than two (2) times within six (6) months), or possible impetigo (secondary bacterial infection of sores and scratches on the student’s head), the student will be excluded from attending school until he or she is no longer infested. In this situation, a note from a representative of the public health department or the child’s medical provider, verifying that the student is lice/nit free, is necessary to allow re-entry into school.

Students who miss more than two (2) consecutive days of school for head lice may be considered truant. This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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