

Katy Independent School District

Health Services Department

Head Lice

Head lice should be suspected when there is intense itching and scratching of the scalp and near the neckline at the back of the neck. If you look closely at the scalp and throughout the hair, you may see very small, rapidly crawling insects about 1/8" long and/or brown to grayish-white eggs (nits) firmly attached anywhere on the hair strand. Although these nits may look like dandruff, dandruff can easily be removed from the hair while nits are not easily removed. The presence of nits close to the scalp confirms that a person is infested. If the nits are located more than ¼ inch from the scalp, the infestation is probably an old one.

Students are screened for lice when symptoms are exhibited.

If live lice are found in your child's hair, use a medicated shampoo formulated to kill lice. If conditions warrant, use a separate bottle of shampoo for each family member. Contact the campus nurse for further instructions. If nits are found, it is recommended that they be manually removed to prevent re-infestation.

Current Administrative Policy states that a child found to have live lice may not return to school unless the hair has been treated with the medicated shampoo and the product box/bottle has been presented to the campus nurse. Your child will be rechecked when he/she returns to school and again in 7-10 days, after the second treatment (which is essential in eliminating head lice infestations).

School-wide head checks are not recommended or endorsed by the Harvard School of Public Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics or the Centers for Disease Control. The most effective screening occurs when parents check their own children at home, treat if any are found and make efforts to remove any nits.