

Head lice

Head lice occur commonly among school-age children. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and anyone can get them. Lice do not transmit infections and do not endanger a person's health. Head lice do not jump and do not fly. Head lice are most easily shared by direct head-to-head contact, as well as by shared living spaces, specifically bed-sharing and sharing of personal items, such as brushes, hats, etc.

Sunnyvale Schools have a “no head lice” policy which means that:

- Any student who has live bugs (not just nits) in their hair will be excluded at the end of the day and is not allowed to return to school until they receive treatment.
- Following treatment, a child will be allowed back in school if his/her hair is free of lice (live bugs) upon re-inspection. Students will be examined by the district nurse's designee upon returning to school.
- Students that have been cleared of lice will be re-examined in 7 calendar days (or closest school day if the 7th day falls on a weekend or holiday) by the district nurse's designee.
- Students found to have head lice (live bugs) upon re-examination will once again be excluded until they are lice-free.

“No Head Lice” and end-of-day exclusion policies are supported by national organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association and the National Association of School Nurses. Similar policies have been adopted successfully by school systems throughout the country.

We recommend that you check all members of your household for lice and treat them as necessary. We recommend that you remind your child not to share personal items such as brushes or combs with friends or other classmates.

If you have any further questions, please consult your healthcare provider or contact your school's district nurse.

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