

September 15, 2015

Dear District 34 Families,

As a district, we are moving towards alignment of best practices for lice identification and management as recommended by the State of Illinois guidelines, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, the American School Health Association, and the Harvard School of Public Health.

It is important for the district, as a whole, to utilize these standard practices for lice identification and management consistently. Therefore, mass head checks will no longer be performed at any school. However, we will continue to be responsive if a case of lice has been confirmed.

Why Eliminate Mass Head Checks?

The practice of checking all students for head lice is not supported by current research or policy for several reasons, which are outlined below.

Mass head checks have several detrimental effects:

- lost instructional time
- low yield of identification (perhaps 1-2 cases per 1000 heads checked)
- lack of confidentiality
- undue focus put upon a condition that is not a disease or health risk

By the time lice are discovered, a child has had them for approximately 3-4 weeks

It makes no sense to exclude them from school once they are treated.

School is not considered a high-risk location for getting lice

A compilation of over a decade of research supports that schools are rarely the place of lice transmission - it usually occurs through family and friend encounters in homes and in the community.

What Will Be the District's Response?

Our current administrative procedure in the district counsels the school nurse and principal to check a class if more than one case is identified within a brief period of time. This will continue to be our practice. Additionally, siblings in school will be checked, along with any suspected contacts, and other schools where siblings attend will be notified so those children can be checked, should lice be identified.

Only students who continue to have live lice or do not show evidence of treatment will be excluded from school.



Glenview School District 34
1401 Greenwood Road
Glenview, Illinois, 60026-1511
www.glenview34.org

It is true that a case of lice is not only "icky," but continues to be regarded as a socially negative event. Anyone who has had a child with a persistent case of lice can attest to the frustration of multiple treatments in order to eradicate these pests. As a district, we acknowledge the challenge of dealing with this very real nuisance and do not feel students should be excluded from learning.

The entire District 34 Health Coordinator and Registered Nurse team, along with the Executive Director of Student Services, personally examined the most current research, practices of nearby districts, rules, guidelines, and laws regarding lice in schools during the past few months, and this team unanimously supports the upcoming changes.

Additional information is available by visiting the following links:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/2/392.full>

<http://www.nasn.org/PolicyAdvocacy/PositionPapersandReports/NASNPositionStatementsArticleView/tabid/462/ArticleId/40/Pediculosis-Management-in-the-School-Setting-Revised-2011>

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html>

Warmly,
Ms. Terry Sofianos
Executive Director of Student Services