Managing presumed head louse infestations in schools

'Nits' discovered on hair?

Yes

• Inspect hair for live lice
• Compare samples to images on our web site or
• submit a sample or image for evaluation

Live (crawling) lice on hair?

Yes

Submit image(s) and/or Specimen Evaluation Form to IdentifyUS

No

Periodically reinspect hair for live lice

No

Relax. Do NOT treat for lice.

Recommended responses ✔

• Notifying parent / guardian at the end of the day of the suspected infestation.
• Providing information on the biology of head lice and methods to eliminate infestations.

Unjustified responses ✗

• Excluding or quarantining the student or his/her possessions.
• Violating confidentiality of the affected student and his/her family.
• Notifying other students and parents of minor health issues affecting classmates.
• Mass screening of children for head lice or their eggs.
• Applying insecticides to classrooms and buses.
• Reporting cases of head lice to youth or social services.
• Bagging of coats and clothes.
• Restricting the use of headphones or helmets.

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