

**POLICY TITLE: STUDENTS WITH HEAD LICE**

**Introduction**

Head Lice are common in childhood and affect children in all economic, social, and educational circumstances. Head lice live only on humans and are spread from person to person regardless of good health habits. They spread by sharing combs and brushes, hats, or other objects placed on or in the hair. They can also be spread through close physical contact. The adult female attaches 6-10 tiny eggs (nits) per day to the hair shaft. In 10-12 days, if left on the human host, the eggs will hatch. Head lice cannot survive without its human host for more than 24 hours. The life span of the adult is 23-30 days.

**Administrative Guidelines**

COSSA's responsibility in dealing with head lice is to assist in their detection and prevention. The Board of Trustees recognizes that responsibility for the treatment of head lice rests with the home. Students with lice and/or eggs shall not be permitted to attend school. When lice or nits are found, the affected student shall be excluded from school, according to the described procedures.

Students suspected of having lice (excessive scratching of the scalp appearance of possible nits) should be referred to the nurse or designee as soon as possible for inspection. The nurse or designee shall examine the student. If nits or lice are found, or believed to be found, the students shall be excluded. Upon the presence of head lice and /or nits, siblings of the affected students or members of the same household who also attends COSSA will be checked. Parents / guardians will be informed about recommended treatments procedures, ways to check the hair, and prevention methods. They will also be informed about sources of further information, i.e. Southwest District Health and personal physician.

If a student refuses to be examined for lice, the parents/guardians will be called to take the child home. Excluded students may return to school only upon examination by the nurse or designee. Follow-up procedures will be done according to the exclusion guidelines below.

The principal shall send home the notification required by law for excluded students. Staff shall make every effort to maintain the privacy of students identified as having head lice and excluded for treatment.

Excluded students may return to school when re-examination by the nurse or designee shows that all pests and nits have been removed. These students shall then be checked weekly for two weeks.

## **Preventive Measures**

Because head lice are not uncommon and they are easily spread, the school nurse or designee shall send information regarding the detection, treatment, and control of head lice to parents/guardians as needed to prevent infestation.

When two cases of lice are detected in a classroom, nurse or designee shall examine all students in the class. Also, the "Head Lice Prevention" letter will be sent to all parents/guardians of children in the classroom the same day the cases of head lice are discovered.

If a number of students are identified as having head lice, all students in the school may be screened for lice at the discretion of the building principal and the nurse.

## **Procedures for Head Lice Checks and Subsequent Exclusions**

Exclusion and follow-up procedures will be done according to the following guidelines.

**1<sup>st</sup> School Day** - Any student found to have lice or nits will be excluded from school. The parents or guardians will be given an Exclusion Notice with signature of parental receipt required and additional information on head lice detection, treatment, and prevention. Expectations of the student's timely return to school will be addressed. Depending upon the extent of the head lice and /or nits and duration of the condition, the school expects the child to return to school lice and nit free within two to three (2-3) days.

**3<sup>rd</sup> School Day** - If the student has not returned to school and has not eliminated all lice and nits, contact with parent or guardian will be made via phone call or home visit by the nurse and /or principal (or designee). The nurse or designee will review with the parents what treatment they have used and offer suggestions and resources, as needed, i.e. head lice shampoo.

**5<sup>th</sup> School Day** - If the student has still not returned to school and has not eliminated all lice and nits, the nurse (or designee), principal and the SRO will make a parent visit.

**7<sup>th</sup> School Day** – If the student has still not returned to school free of lice and nits, a letter will be presented to the School Board requesting that the student be declared truant and that the case be remanded to the Prosecuting Attorney. Also, the nurse or designee will make referral to Health and Welfare, Child Protective Services.

### **LEGAL REFERENCE:**

**I.C. § 33-512(7)**

### **POLICY HISTORY:**

**Adopted: 3-19-18**

**COSSA**  
**Notice of Exclusion due to**  
**Head Lice and/or Nits**

Your child, \_\_\_\_\_, has been found to have head lice and /or nits. According to COSSA Board Policy, students with lice and /or nits shall not be permitted to attend school. This policy prevents the transmission of head lice to others and protects the well- being of all students. The school expects your child to return to school, lice and nit free, within two to three (2-3) days. Failure of your child’s timely return could lead to the following consequences:

- A violation of COSSA Attendance policy. This could lead to your child’s retention in a grade or loss of credit.
- A charge of truancy. This could lead to legal consequences, as a child of 7-16 years of age is required by law to be in school.

Your child’s quality education is dependent upon maintaining good attendance. Please take prompt action to insure that the education of your child is not interrupted.

Greg Hale, Principal

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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I understand the COSSA Head Lice Policy, and I have received information regarding treatment procedures.

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Parent / Guardian

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Date

Follow-up (by Nurse and/or designee)

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**COSSA**  
**Aviso De Exclusión Debido a**  
**Piojos De Cabeza y/o Liendres**

Su hijo/a, \_\_\_\_\_, se ha encontrado tener piojos de cabeza y/o liendres. De acuerdo con la póliza de la Junta de Síndicos, los estudiantes con piojos y/o liendres no serán autorizados asistir a la escuela. Esta política impide la transmisión de los piojos de la cabeza a otros y protege el bienestar de todos los estudiantes. La escuela espera que su hijo/a regrese a la escuela, libre de piojos y liendres, dentro de dos a tres (2-3) días. El fracaso del regreso oportuno de su hijo/a podría llevar las siguientes consecuencias.

- Una violación de la Póliza de Asistencia de COSSA. Esto puede llevar a que su hijo/a sea retenido en un grado o pérdida de crédito.
- Un cargo de ausentismo. Esto podría llevar a consecuencias legales, ya que la ley requiere que un niño de 7-16 años de edad esté en la escuela.

La calidad de educación de su hijo/a es dependiente en mantener buena asistencia. Por favor tome acción inmediata para asegurar que la educación de su hijo/a no sea interrumpida.

Greg Hale, director

Fecha \_\_\_\_\_

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Entiendo la póliza de piojos de cabeza de COSSA y he recibido información cerca los procesos de tratamiento.

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Padre / Tutor

Fecha

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Seguimiento (por enfermera y/o designado)



CANYON-OWYHEE SCHOOL SERVICE AGENCY  
109 Penny Lane  
Wilder, ID 83676  
Phone (208) 482-6074  
Fax (208) 482-7904

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Dr. Harold A. Nevill, CEO  
Greg Hale, Principal  
CRTEC Campus Director  
Diana Zigars, Special Education Director  
Dawnita Tincher, Business Manager  
Clerk of the Board

### **Prevención de piojos**

Estimados padres, estudiantes y personal:

Se ha detectado un caso de piojos en la Academia de COSSA. Como medida preventiva, estamos solicitando que todos los padres examinen a sus niños.

El rascado de la cabeza y el picor intenso del cuero cabelludo son las principales indicaciones de piojos; la presencia puede confirmarse mediante una inspección minuciosa del cuero cabelludo. Los piojos crecen en huevos ovales y blanquecinos llamados liendres. Inspeccione a su estudiante con buena luz, puede ver los huevos, si están presentes, unidos a la base de los pelos más a menudo por encima de las orejas o en la nuca. Puede haber solo algunos. La caspa puede eliminarse fácilmente, las liendres no pueden. Los piojos reales son pequeñas formas grisáceas que se arrastran, pero son difíciles de encontrar.

Aunque es un problema molesto, los piojos no deben echar una alarma indebida, sino una acción rápida. Los piojos pueden ocurrir a cualquier familia y se transmiten fácilmente. Por lo general, se transmiten de una persona a otra por contacto personal directo y por el uso común de artículos personales como peines, cepillos, sombreros y abrigos. Pueden propagarse rápidamente si no se toman medidas preventivas tan pronto como se hayan encontrado los piojos o las liendres. A continuación se enumeran algunas recomendaciones para el tratamiento de los piojos. Los estudiantes con piojos no pueden presentarse a la escuela hasta que se eliminen todos los piojos y liendres. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con la escuela al 208-482-6074.

#### **Recomendaciones**

- Obtener un champú medicado para piojos; hay varios champús sin receta para piojos que puedes comprar sin receta médica o puedes contactar a tu médico.
- Siga las instrucciones dadas por el médico o las que se proporcionan con el producto que ha elegido.
- Desinfecte los peines y cepillos lavándolos en el producto medicado o hirviéndolos.
- El día que lave el cabello con champú, también debe lavar toda la ropa de cama, almohadas, ropa, etc. en agua caliente.
- Inspeccione a todos los miembros de su familia semanalmente. Si se encuentran piojos o liendres, siga las recomendaciones anteriores.



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### **Head Lice Prevention**

Dear parents, students and staff:

There has been a case of head lice detected at COSSA Academy. As a preventative measure, we are requesting that all parents examine their student.

Head scratching and intense itching of the scalp are the main indications of head lice; their presence can be confirmed by a close inspection of the scalp. Head lice grow in oval, whitish eggs called nits. Inspect your student under good light, you can see the eggs, if present, attached to the base of the hairs most often above the ears or at the nape of the neck. There may only be a few. Dandruff can be easily removed, the nits cannot. The actual hatched lice are tiny grayish crawling forms, but they are difficult to find.

Although an annoying problem, head lice should not trigger undue alarm, but prompt action. Head lice can happen to any family and is easily transmitted. They are generally transmitted from one person to another by direct personal contact and by the common use of personal items such as combs, brushes, hats, and coats. They can spread rapidly if preventative measures are not taken as soon as the lice or nits have been found. Listed below are some recommendations for the treatment of head lice. Students with head lice are not allowed to attend school until all lice and nits are removed. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 208-482-6074.

#### **Recommendations**

- Get a medicated shampoo for head lice; there are several non-prescription shampoos for head lice that you can buy over the counter or you can contact your physician.
- Follow the instructions given by the physician or those given with the product you have chosen.
- Disinfect the combs and brushes by washing them in the medicated product or by boiling them.
- On the day you shampoo the hair, you must also wash all bedding, pillows, clothing, etc...in hot water.
- Inspect all members of your family weekly. If head lice or nits are found, follow the above recommendations.