

## NUISANCE DISEASE CONTROL

Head lice, scabies, fleas and bed bugs are parasites that are commonly referred to as nuisance diseases. From time to time a student in the school population may be afflicted with a nuisance disease. Jefferson School District personnel will take prompt action to reduce student exposure to these nuisance diseases. In order to maintain a safe and healthy school environment, a student identified as having an active case of nuisance diseases may be excluded from the classroom and sent home for appropriate treatment. Readmission to school will be allowed only when the family has followed protocol described in the administrative rule of this policy. When student absenteeism results from "noncompliance" with the nuisance disease control procedure, the building administrator may take appropriate action.

While no school can be made entirely free of communicable and nuisance diseases, both the school district and the family play a role in decreasing student exposure. The district will provide education and guidelines for preventing, identifying and treating these nuisance diseases. Families also play a vital role in prevention, identification and treatment. If their child has been diagnosed, they are responsible for following established guidelines and procedures for eliminating the parasites from the home environment so the child may return to school as soon as possible.

Specific guidelines have been developed for the management of head lice, scabies, fleas and bed bugs within the schools. These guidelines include parent/guardian notifications, treatment instructions and parent/guardian responsibilities.

The School District of Jefferson shall not discriminate against students on the bases of sex, race, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, age, homeless status, handicap or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

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CROSS REF.:	JHCCA-R, Nuisance Disease Control Guidelines
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# NUISANCE DISEASE CONTROL GUIDELINES

## HEAD LICE GUIDELINES

### I. Procedures for the Control and Treatment of Head Lice/Nits in School

- A. Any student who is suspected of having head lice shall be removed from the classroom as unobtrusively as possible to be screened. Head lice checks may be made periodically on any child as necessary during the school year. This may include classroom checks or all-school checks. Friends and siblings of infested students shall be checked for head lice. Students with head lice or untreated nits shall not attend school. Since head lice screening programs have not been proven to have a significant effect on the incidence of head lice in school over time and are not cost effective, the need for a mass screening for head lice will be determined by the school nurse in consultation with the building administrator.
- B. If live lice or untreated nits are apparent, the following shall occur:
1. The parent/guardian shall be contacted by phone. The child shall be isolated from other students and sent home with his/her belongings.
  2. Treatment of the student and the environment shall be explained to the parent/guardian.
  3. A written explanation of lice treatment shall be given to the parent/guardian when he/she arrives to pick up the student to reinforce the instructions given over the phone. A form shall also be given for the parent/guardian to complete, documenting the day, time and type of treatment used.
  4. Parents/guardians shall be instructed to remove all nits and casings after treatment.
  5. Students sent home due to head lice shall be permitted to return to school the next school day following treatment under the conditions identified in section C.
- C. Readmission to School
1. The student shall provide a completed treatment form, signed by the parent/guardian, and be checked by the School Nurse, or his/her designee, upon return to school.
  2. Presence of live lice shall constitute exclusion and treatment shall be repeated.
  3. If nits are present, the parent/guardian is to be notified that they must continue to remove the nits. The student shall be rechecked daily through the fourth day.
  4. The School Nurse, or his/her designee, shall check the student's head for lice and nits periodically, or until assured that the head is clear. Live lice found during this period shall

require the student to be excluded from school until the student is lice-free. Subsequent cases shall be considered as new cases per this policy only after the student has gone four (4) or more consecutive weeks nit-free.

5. Should chronic reinfestation occur in individuals, the school may request that additional measures be taken prior to readmission. A referral to Jefferson County Health Department for home assistance may be made.
6. Absence from school following the fourth day, at the discretion of the building principal, shall be considered as truancy and may eventually result in referral for habitual truancy.

D. School Environment

1. Generally accepted guidelines for cleaning the classroom shall be followed for those classrooms of diagnosed cases. The building cleaner/custodian shall be asked to clean the classroom each time a new case is discovered in that classroom.
2. Letters to parents/guardians of all students in the affected classroom shall be sent home with the students explaining that lice have been discovered in their child's classroom and instructions on how to check their own child(ren) for head lice.
3. The School Nurse, or his/her designee, shall check the heads of all students in those classrooms of diagnosed cases of head lice in that classroom upon teacher request or if several live lice cases have been diagnosed.

**II. Guidelines for Cleaning Classrooms/Related Environment**

(Applicable only to classrooms where cases of lice are identified.)

A. Classroom

1. Vacuum thoroughly: rugs, upholstered furniture, pillows and articles not easily washed.
2. Dry cleaning of some articles can be very expensive and difficult, such as dolls, teddy bears, etc. Therefore, sealing such articles in a plastic bag for two (2) weeks at room temperature far surpasses the length of time the lice and nits can survive.
3. Wash hard surfaces with soap and water (i.e. tables, chairs, etc.).
4. The use of insecticidal sprays is not recommended and strongly discouraged. It is expensive and of questionable benefit and may be harmful to staff and students.

B. Clothing Storage

Each child's hat and coat, art smocks and gym clothes should be stored separately from other students' belongings. This can be accomplished in any of several ways:

1. Assign individual lockers to students.
2. Assign wall hooks 12" or more apart to each student or put wraps in individual garbage bags (plastic grocery bags work well), making sure children use their own bag.
3. Let students hang their short coats on the backs of their seats and long coats on the coat rack spaced so they do not touch.
4. Let students hang all their coats on the backs of their seats.
5. Store caps and scarves separately, let each student store them in his/her desk or put caps and scarves in sleeves of coat.

C. Education

1. Information regarding diagnosis, treatment and prevention of head lice shall be provided to all families at the beginning of each semester and as needed throughout the school year. Parents will be encouraged to check their children for head lice periodically and whenever symptomatic.
2. The School Nurse, or his/her designee, shall provide students identified as having head lice or nits with instructions on lice control methods. Similar information shall be communicated verbally and through written materials to the student's parent/guardian.

## FLEA GUIDELINES

I. **Procedures for the Control and Treatment of Fleas in School**

- A. If fleas are present or suspected, the following shall occur:
1. The student shall be removed from the classroom as unobtrusively as possible and checked for fleas by the School Nurse or designated school personnel.
  2. If fleas are found, the parents/guardian of the student shall be contacted and the student will be sent home with their belongings.
  3. Parents/guardians will be instructed to manually remove fleas from the child's hair and body.
  4. Parents/guardians will be given instruction on proper treatment of any pets in the home and home environment.

B. Readmission to School

1. In order to be readmitted to school, the student must provide written verification that treatment of home pets and environment has occurred. The student will be examined by the school nurse or designee to determine if there are any live fleas in the student's hair.
2. If no live fleas are present, the student may return to the classroom. If live fleas are present, parents will be notified to remove fleas.
3. Flea checks by the school nurse or designee will occur daily until there is a period of two weeks where no live fleas are found on the student. Random flea checks will occur if signs of reinfestation are noted (i.e., student noted to be scratching head, fleas seen crawling on student's body).

C. School Environment

1. Flea checks and screening may be done at the discretion of the School Nurse or designated personnel on any child as necessary during the school year.
2. Individuals living in the same household as the affected student may be checked for fleas on an as-needed basis.
3. The name of the student with fleas will remain confidential and will be released only to the extent authorized by law.

**II. Guidelines for Cleaning Classrooms/Related Environment**

A. Classroom

1. Classroom pets in the class of the affected student shall be removed from the school.
2. The classroom will be vacuumed daily for two (2) weeks after the last known live flea on the student.

B. Home

1. Parents/guardians will need to manually remove fleas from the child's hair and body.
2. The parent/guardian will be instructed to do daily flea checks until they have found no fleas on the student for two (2) consecutive weeks. Fleas hatch in 10-14 days.
3. If pets are present in the home, the parent/guardian will be instructed to consult a veterinarian for specific recommendations, which may include the following:
  - a. Use of pet flea shampoo, sprays, dusts, cream, aerosols, roll-ons and/or dips
  - b. Combing pets with a flea comb
  - c. Use of pet flea collars

4. Parents/guardians will clean the home environment by:
  - a. Vacuuming the home thoroughly on a daily basis until the fleas have been eliminated and discard the vacuum bag after use.
  - b. Mop all floors and shampoo carpets.
  - c. Wash removable coverings, including rugs and bedding.

C. Education

1. The School Nurse, or his/her designee, shall provide the parent/guardian of the student identified as having scabies with instructions on treatment protocols.
2. Information about fleas will be shared with appropriate school staff.

## SCABIES GUIDELINES

### I. Procedures for the Control and Treatment of Scabies in School

A. If scabies is present or suspected, the following shall occur:

1. The student shall be excluded from the classroom, the parents/guardian shall be called and, the student will be sent home for appropriate treatment.
2. Parents/guardians shall seek medical advice, requesting prescription medication to treat the problem as over-the-counter remedies are not effective.
3. Students sent home due to scabies are permitted to return to school following treatment under the conditions identified in section B.
4. Parents/guardians shall also be asked to inspect all other close contacts or family members for itching, especially between fingers, on elbows, hands, wrists and waistline, with any additional suspected cases be referred to a physician's care for evaluation and treatment.

B. Readmission to School

1. The student may return to school upon receiving at least one day (24 hours) of the prescribed treatment provided that written verification of diagnosis and treatment from the physician are provided upon the students return to school.
2. If repeated infections occur despite proper treatment, an inquiry of unrecognized cases among household members should be undertaken. The most common cause of treatment failure is inadequate treatment of close personal contacts. It is recommended that all family members receive prophylactic treatment.

C. School Environment

1. Generally accepted guidelines for cleaning the classroom shall be followed for those classrooms of diagnosed cases. The building cleaner/custodian shall be asked to clean the classrooms used by the student.
2. Letters to parents/guardians of all students in the affected classroom shall be sent home with the students explaining that a case of scabies has been discovered in their child's classroom and instructions on how to monitor their own child(ren) for scabies.
3. The School Nurse, or his/her designee, shall assess classmates in contact with the student with the diagnosed case of scabies should they present with symptoms.

**II. Guidelines for Cleaning Classrooms/Home Environment**

- A. Home environment shall be thoroughly vacuumed, including pillows, furniture, mattresses, carpets, cars and other articles not easily washed. Classroom carpets and furniture shall be thoroughly vacuumed.
- B. All personal bedding and clothing worn or used next to the student's skin anytime during the 3 days before treatment should be machine-washed and dried using the hot water and hot dryer cycles or be dry-cleaned.
- C. Items that cannot be dry-cleaned or laundered can be disinfested by storing in a closed plastic bag for several days to a week.
- D. Environmental disinfestation using pesticide sprays or fogs generally is unnecessary and is discouraged.
- E. Education
  1. The School Nurse, or his/her designee, shall provide parent/guardian of student identified as having scabies with instructions on treatment protocols.
  2. Scabies Fact Sheet will be shared with appropriate school staff.

## **BED BUG GUIDELINES**

**I. Procedures for the Control and Treatment of Bed Bugs in School**

- A. Any student who is suspected of carrying bed bugs shall be removed from the classroom as unobtrusively as possible, along with all belongings for further investigation and identification.
- B. If bed bugs are found or suspected, the following shall occur:

1. The child and personal items will be discretely removed from the classroom for further investigation.
2. Any bed bugs found should be removed and can be placed in rubbing alcohol or alcohol-based hand sanitizer in a sealed container for identification.
3. The School Nurse or designated personnel shall notify the affected student's parents/guardians and provide educational materials on bed bug management and control.
4. Siblings of the affected student should also be checked for the presence of bed bugs/bed bug bites.
5. Classrooms will be inspected for additional bed bugs.
6. Students will not be excluded from the classroom due to bed bugs, but staff may continue to monitor classrooms, common areas and individuals for complaints of bed bugs or bug bites.
7. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to contact a professional pest control company or their landlord/management company if in a rental property.
8. Should a student that repeatedly comes to school with bed bugs, the school may request that additional measures be taken. A referral to Jefferson County Health Department for assistance or investigation may be made.

C. School Environment

1. In a discreet manner, the student's belongings and/or desk or locker may be inspected for bed bugs.
2. Staff will work to reduce the amount of unused items in classrooms as to prevent clutter and places for bed bugs to settle.
3. Items (clothes, coats, bags) should be stored in clear plastic containers when possible.
4. Minimize use of rugs and upholstered furniture in classrooms and common areas.

**II. Guidelines for Cleaning Classrooms/Related Environment**

A. Classroom

1. Necessary rugs should be vacuumed frequently.
2. Classrooms and common areas should be thoroughly cleaned on a regular schedule with special attention to cracks, crevices and upholstered furniture.



3. Hard surfaces can be washed with hot soapy water.
4. Washables should be laundered in hot soapy water and dried at the highest temperature, at least 120 degrees, for 30 minutes or sent home with the student in a plastic bag.
5. If a bed bug is found within a classroom, notify the Building and Grounds Director. A pest management control company may be contacted for an inspection and possible treatment.
6. In preparation for bed bug treatment, the affected classrooms will be vacuumed and all removable items should be placed in sealed bins and left for further inspection. Debris from the vacuum will be immediately discarded and removed from the building. Additional guidelines may be provided by the pest control company.

B. Personal Belongings

1. The student will be provided with plastic bags or bins to store their belongings in order to prevent any bed bugs from spreading throughout the school.
2. The School Nurse or school staff may recommend that the student limit the items brought to school in order to reduce the chance of bed bugs brought in.
3. The student's clothes may be placed in a dryer for 30 minutes on high to kill the bed bugs.

C. Education

1. Bed Bug Fact Sheet will be sent home with the affected student and shared with appropriate school personnel.
2. Building administrator may determine if parents and/or staff be notified if there has been a confirmed bed bug (introduction) in the school.
3. Parents/guardians of students in the entire building must be notified if there is an infestation in the school.

**3/23/15**