



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Indian Education  
Havasupai Elementary School  
P.O. Box 40  
Supai, AZ 86435



Telephone (928) 448-2901      FAX: (928) 448-2108

### Head Lice Policy

#### Purpose

To ensure the health and safety of all students and staff, this policy outlines the procedures for prevention, identification, and management of head lice infestations in our school community.

#### Policy Statement

Head lice infestations (pediculosis) are a common issue among school-aged children. Although they can be distressing, head lice do not pose a significant health risk and are not known to transmit disease. This policy is designed to provide a clear framework for the management of head lice while minimizing disruption to the educational process.

#### 1. Prevention

**Avoidance of Shared Items:** Encourage students to avoid sharing personal items such as hats, scarves, hairbrushes, and headphones.

#### 2. Identification

**Reporting Symptoms:** Students and staff should report any suspected cases of head lice to the school principal or school secretary discretely to ensure privacy of student health information.

#### 3. Management Procedures

- **Inspection:** If a case of head lice is suspected, the school secretary or school principal will conduct a discreet inspection of the student's hair and scalp.

- **Notification:** If an infestation is confirmed, the parents of the affected student will be notified immediately by school secretary or school principal. The student may remain in school until the end of the school day.

- **Treatment:** Parents will be advised to treat their child with an appropriate pediculicide as per the instructions provided by school secretary or school principal. Alternative treatments may also be discussed with IHS at parent discretion.

#### 4. Re-admittance to School

- **Post-Treatment Inspection:** Students who have been treated for head lice must be inspected by HIS to provide a clearance statement to include that they are Nit-free to present to school secretary.

#### 5. Classroom Management:\*

- **Confidentiality:** Information regarding affected students will be kept confidential to protect their privacy.

- Communication: Teachers will inform parents within the same classroom or close cohort of the confirmed case of head lice but avoid labeling or singling out any individual student. [See template for communication.](#) (page 3 of policy) If you need support in sending out the letters, please contact school principal or school secretary.

#### 6. Ongoing Monitoring

- Follow-Up: The school will maintain a proactive approach by monitoring for additional cases and educating the community about head lice.

#### **\*\*Review of Policy:\*\***

- This policy will be reviewed annually, or as needed, to ensure its effectiveness and adapt to current public health guidelines.

This policy aims to manage head lice with compassion and clarity, ensuring the well-being of all students while minimizing unnecessary absences from school. By working together, we can help prevent and manage head lice infestations effectively.

Approved by: Dr. Winder, School Principal

Date: August 7, 2024

Review Date: August 7, 2025



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### Head Lice Notification

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian of Students:

We are writing to inform you of a recent incident involving head lice in your child's classroom at Havasupai Elementary. While head lice are not considered a health risk and do not spread disease, we believe it is important for parents to be aware so they can take appropriate action.

#### What You Need to Know

- \*\*Identification:\*\*** A case of head lice has been reported in your child's classroom. Head lice are tiny insects that live on the scalp and lay eggs (nits) in the hair.
- \*\*Precautionary Measures:\*\***
  - Please check your child's hair and scalp for signs of head lice or nits. Look for small, white or yellowish eggs attached to the hair shafts, especially close to the scalp.
  - If you find evidence of head lice or nits, please treat your child with an appropriate over-the-counter (OTC) treatment or consult your healthcare provider for recommendations.
- \*\*Return to School:\*\***
  - Students who have been treated can return to school as long as they have been treated effectively.
  - If lice or nits are still present, please consult your healthcare provider for further action.
- \*\*Prevention Tips:\*\***
  - Remind your child not to share personal items such as hats, hairbrushes, or towels with others.
  - Encourage regular hair checks, especially after sleepovers or playdates.

#### Confidentiality

Please know that we are maintaining strict confidentiality regarding any students who have been identified with head lice to protect their privacy.

If you have any questions or need additional resources, feel free to reach out to the school secretary, Felicia Siyuja at [felicia.siyuja@bie.edu](mailto:felicia.siyuja@bie.edu)

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your cooperation in helping our school maintain a healthy environment.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[School Phone Number]

[School Email Address]