

Rules of
Tennessee Department of Health
Health Services Administration
Communicable and Environmental Disease Services
Chapter 1200-14-01
Communicable and Environmental Diseases
Amendments

Rule 1200-14-01-.24 Exclusion from School for Special Diseases is amended by deleting the rule in its entirety and substituting the following language so that as amended the new language shall read:

- (1) School authorities for any public, private, or church-related school and day care or Head Start authorities shall exclude from their facilities any child who is infected with or suspected of having the following diseases: measles, rubella, mumps, chickenpox and other illnesses designated by the local health officer as requiring exclusion.
- (2) School authorities for any public, private, or church-related school and day care or Head Start authorities shall follow the guidelines promulgated by the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to any child who is infested with or suspected of being infested with pediculosis or scabies.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 68-1-103, 68-1-104, 68-1-201, and 68-5-104

Head Lice Information for Schools

Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

Both the American Association of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses advocate that "no-nit" policies should be discontinued. "No-nit" policies that require a child to be free of nits before they can return to schools should be discontinued for the following reasons:

- Many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp. Such nits are usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as casings.
- Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.
- The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.
- Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.

More on: [Head Lice Treatment](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html)
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html>

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