

Head lice (pediculosis) is a relatively common childhood condition. Infestation with head lice is not known to cause any human disease. The condition can cause itching; some children can develop infections from excessive scratching.

BCPS excludes any student with an active infestation (live bugs on the head). Students and families are **STRONGLY** encouraged to remove all eggs (nits) from the hair. In a recent research study, 18% of students with nits later developed active infestations. (See <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/107/5/1011>)

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene do not support excluding students with nits; they recommend schools admit students with nits but no live lice. See <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;110/3/638>, and also <http://www.nasn.org/Default.aspx?tabid=237> and http://www.edcp.org/guidelines/CD_Summary.pdf.

Your school nurse has information and resources to help control head lice. For further information, see http://www.aap.org/publiced/BR_Lice.htm.