



Flathead City-County Health Department

1035 First Ave. West Kalispell, MT 59901
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www.flatheadhealth.org

Community Health Services
751-8110 FAX 751-8111
Environmental Health Services
751-8130 FAX 751-8131
Family Planning Services
751-8150 FAX 751-8151
Home Health Services
751-6800 FAX 751-6807
WIC Services
751-8170 FAX 751-8171
Animal Shelter
752-1310 FAX 752-1546

October 25, 2018

Sarah Cole
Director of Special Education
Kalispell Public Schools
233 1st Avenue West
Kalispell, MT, 59901

Dear Ms Cole:

On behalf of Flathead City-County Health Department I am writing to support School District Five's new lice policy. The change from a no nit policy to a policy allowing children to stay in school until the days end when lice are diagnosed is consistent with national policy guidelines at this time. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses all support the discontinuation of no-nit policies.

"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." (CDC, Headlice Information for Schools, accessed 10/24/2018)

As a local health department we do not set policy, but follow current CDC guidelines, as above. We agree that keeping children healthy and in school is a priority. We hope you will continue to see us as a resource for your staff, students and families.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dennison, RN, BSN
Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Coordinator
Flathead City-County Health Department
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