
Head Lice and Scabies Infestations, Rule

The Background:

Effective July 2011, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) updated its rules and regulations for handling infestations of pediculosis (head lice) and scabies. The current TDOH rules (Rule 1200-14-01-.24 - Exclusion from School for Special Diseases) requires any public, private, or church-related school, day care or head start authorities to follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for handling infestations of head lice and scabies.

Currently, SBE Rule 0520-12-01-.10(10)(b) states: *“Children diagnosed with scabies or lice shall have proof of treatment and be free of nits prior to re-admission.”*

The updated TDOH rules remove the requirement that the child be free of nits prior to re-admission provided he/she provides proof of treatment. To be in compliance with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines the 0520-12-01-.10(10)(b) should be revised as follows:

“Children diagnosed with scabies or lice shall have proof of treatment prior to re-admission.”

The Recommendation:

The Tennessee Department of Education recommends adoption of this rule revision on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

Proposed Rule Revision

Rule 0520-12-01-.10(10)(b) is amended by deleting the language “and be free of nits”.