

NOTE FROM SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Head lice (Pediculosis) is a common problem with children in group settings. When there is a problem with head lice being resistant to treatment it is because: 1) shampoos and other treatments are being used incorrectly, too often or not often enough; 2) regular, thorough cleaning of household items may not always be done when head lice have been found in the home.

Students will be excluded from school when active lice are found or when the number of nits present indicates a lack of or inadequate treatment. Parents are notified and the student is sent home. The student may return to the classroom after the hair has been treated and the nurse or another staff member has done another head check.

Taking care of head lice requires a partnership between the school and the home. Once the school nurse has identified the problem of head lice, the parents must treat the entire family. The following are recommendations for treating head lice. Please follow all these steps to help ensure that the head lice are eliminated.

1. **Use lice treatment products as directed on the bottle or on the insert.** If you have questions about the directions, please call your school nurse for help or call a pharmacist at your local pharmacy.
2. **Alternate treatment products.** Frequent use of the same product contributes to the lice being resistant to current treatments.
3. **Make sure all family members are treated.**
4. **Wash and dry all bedding** at the very hottest setting possible.
5. **Vacuum** all areas of the house daily for seven days, then dispose of the bag.
6. **Repeat hair treatment as directed.** A second treatment is very important.
7. **Comb all nits (eggs) from the hair.** This will help to ensure that the lice do not come back.
8. **Check** the child every day for at least two weeks and once or twice weekly thereafter. PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR DURING HOLIDAYS, AFTER SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES, AND BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.
9. **Wash combs and brushes** in the hottest water possible with the lice treatment product.
10. **Place stuffed animals, dolls, etc.** in a trash bag and tie it up for ten days.

For handouts and more information please contact the School Nurse at your child's school.