



Parent Notification Letter - Head Lice

Dear Parent:

The following information is provided to inform you about head lice:

- **Description:** Lice infest all socioeconomic groups, races, genders and ages. The occurrence of head lice can happen to anyone and is not a sign of poor health habits. Head lice are tiny wingless bugs the size of a small seed. They hatch from small eggs, called nits. Nits (lice eggs) are tiny, yellowish eggs stuck to the hair shaft and will hatch within 7-10 days. The nits or eggs are usually found close to the scalp in the areas behind the ears, nape of the neck and close to the top of the head.
- **Signs and Symptoms:** Persistent itching or scratching at the back of the head or around the ears. A neckline rash at the base of the head or behind the ears. A tickling feeling of something moving in the hair, a live louse or nits.
- **Transmission:** Head lice do not fly or jump, they crawl. Head lice are spread among children and between family members because of their frequent close contact with one another. Head lice can also be spread by sharing personal items such as hair brushes, hats, jackets, towels, linens, pillows, and blankets.
- **Incubation Period:** The incubation period is about one week. The female louse lays her eggs at the base of the hair shaft and they will hatch in about one week. Lice reach maturity in approximately two weeks and can live on a person for 20-30 days. Off the head, lice only live 1 to 2 days at room temperature.
- **Treatment:** See attached Instructions for Treatment and Control of Head Lice
- **Exclusion/Re-admittance:** Exclusion is warranted when a student has the signs and symptoms of infestation (live lice and nits). Readmission occurs after the child has received the proper treatment.

We hope this information is of help to you. Should your child show any of the above signs and symptoms, please notify the school. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's School Health Office or the District Nurse.

Sincerely,

District Nurses
291-4184