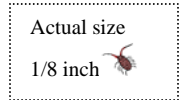




To Parent/Guardian of: _____

There has been a case of head lice detected among your child’s classmates. Please you observe your child closely for signs and symptoms of head lice so that any new cases can be treated promptly.

Head lice are small mites that live on the human scalp. They are grayish-white with dark edges and move very quickly making it difficult to detect them. The primary sign of an infestation is intense itching of the scalp. Nits, lice eggs, are teardrop shaped and white-brownish in color. They are “glued” to the hair shaft and cannot be brushed or washed out like dandruff. Nits are usually found behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.



If head lice or nits are detected, please follow these guidelines:

- Check all family members for signs and symptoms of an infestation.
- Notify the school’s nurse so that classmates can be checked.
- Ask your pharmacist or physician to recommend an effective pediculicide product and follow the directions exactly. Never use a pediculicide more often than is recommended on the label.
- Remove all nits. It is very important that all nits be removed since none of the products available are 100% effective against nits. Any surviving nits left on the hair will hatch starting the problem all over again. Nit removal is a tedious, time-consuming task, but is absolutely necessary in preventing an infestation from reoccurring. Students must be checked in the nurse’s office before return to class. Parents should continue to check for nits on a daily basis for 3 weeks, even if the child appears to be nit-free. Additional helpful information on nit removal is available in the school nurse’s office.
- Wash all clothes, bed linens, towels, etc., that may have come in contact with infested heads and dry in the dryer. Items that have come in contact with infested heads and cannot be washed (i.e., stuffed animals) should be placed in a tightly closed plastic bag for 10 days. Brushes, combs and hair clasps should be cleaned and soaked in hot water for 10 minutes. All carpets, upholstered furniture, mattresses, etc., should be thoroughly vacuumed and the vacuum bag discarded in a plastic trash bag.
- All infested persons should be retreated with a pediculicide product 1 week after the initial treatment (or as specified on the product label).



Lice can come from almost anywhere...a classmate, an upholstered movie theater seat, a neighborhood child’s coat or hat, a shared comb or brush, and/or any after school extracurricular activities. Lice outbreaks are common among school children and even the cleanest child can easily com in contact with the insect. Head lice are not a serious medical condition, but needs to have diligent parental cooperation to control.

I will do my very best to prevent the spread of head lice at our school. Your cooperation in checking your child’s head at home, and following the above directions should you find evidence of head lice, will be very helpful. Please feel free to call me at school if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

School Nurse