

Notification of Head Lice in the School Setting

Head lice have been reported in our school. Lice are a common occurrence in schools, and are considered a nuisance as they do not transmit any disease.

Anyone can get lice and it only indicates close contact with someone who has live lice. They are most often spread at “slumber parties” or staying at someone else’s house. Head to head contact, sharing hats, combs, brushes, head bands, barrettes, and pillows, are common ways head lice are spread, especially in children with long hair.

Lice crawl very fast, but they do not fly or jump. Most often the eggs, called **nits** are found first and appear to be like ‘dandruff’ but the egg is actually glued to the hair shaft and cannot be easily removed. Live lice can appear to be either small almost transparent to dark black.

Please check on a frequent basis for any signs of lice such as itching, nits or live adult lice. They are commonly found at the nape of the neck and around and behind the ears. If you find live lice, check all others in the household.

If **live** lice are found, you must treat your child with appropriate head lice shampoo. **Proof of treatment is required to return to school and can be either the empty shampoo bottle OR a receipt.**

1. Follow the instructions on the product exactly and repeat in 7-10 days in order to kill all lice that may have hatched.
2. **Remove** as many nits as possible by using the nit-comb that usually comes with the lice killing shampoo. Start by separating the hair in 1-inch sections. Nits that are not killed can hatch in 7-10 days.
3. Be certain to clean your home by washing all linen in hot water and hot dryers, vacuuming all surfaces, bagging non-washable items, sterilize combs/brushes or get new ones.

Feel free to contact your school nurse with any questions or concerns.