



Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child was found to have live (crawling) head lice today at school. Although head lice are a nuisance, there is no need to panic. Because a child with an active case of head lice has likely had head lice for a month or more and poses little or no risk to others, your child can remain in school.

Head lice do not cause any known disease or illness, although redness and sores can result from excessive scratching. Head lice cannot jump or fly; they only crawl. They can be gray, tan, brown or red and only live on the human scalp. They are primarily spread through direct head-to-head contact—for example, during play at home or school, slumber parties, sports activities, or camp. Indirect spread through contact with personal belongings of an affected individual (combs, brushes, hats) is much less likely to occur. Having head lice is not related to personal hygiene. In fact, head lice often affect people with good hygiene and grooming habits.

There are many effective treatments available both over-the-counter and by prescription. You may wish to contact your primary health care provider or pharmacist to discuss all available treatment options. Here are some things to consider:

- All household members and other close contacts should be checked and those with evidence of live (crawling) lice should be treated at the same time
- Resistance to some over-the-counter treatments has been reported, however it is important to avoid overtreatment; treatment should only be carried out if LIVE lice are present and care should be taken to follow the manufacturer directions (most OTC medications require retreatment 7 to 10 days after initial treatment)
- Items that have been in contact with the affected individual within the past 48 hours, such as bed linens and recently used clothes, hats and towels can be washed and dried using the hot water and hot air cycles.
- Recently used personal articles such as combs, brushes and hair clips can also be washed in very hot water
- Do NOT treat your pets, use insecticide sprays or fumigate your house

Please feel free to contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns you may have regarding head lice. We are here to help you!

Sincerely,

School Nurse \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_