



Date: _____

Dear Parents or Guardians:

It has come to our attention that your child may have been exposed to head lice (pediculosis). I would like to take this time to calm some fears, inform you about school district policy, and provide a brief outline of the recommended treatment plan in the event that your child becomes infested.

While head lice are a nuisance, it is important to know that they do not spread disease. Lice do not jump or fly, rather they are passed from close head-to-head contact, or by sharing items that have touched an infested person's head (hats, brushes, barrettes). Pets do not play a role in their transmission.

Whole classroom checks are not regularly conducted. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) agree that they are not effective at reducing infestations, have the potential to compromise confidentiality and, most importantly, take away from valuable instruction time. Please check your child's head daily for three weeks for live lice (pinhead to sesame seed in size and white, brown, gray, or red, in color) and nits (eggs that are ball point pen tip in size, white to yellow in color, and firmly adhered to the hair about ¼ inch to ½ inch from the scalp). Nits take approximately one week to hatch and another week to become adults, so it can take weeks to identify an infestation. If you notice that your child is scratching their head more than usual and you cannot find any evidence of lice, please bring them into the front office to be checked. If you find live lice please begin treatment and notify the school.

If a student is found with live head lice while at school, they will be allowed to stay in class until the end of the day. The parent/guardian will be contacted and given information on how to effectively treat head lice. The expectation is that treatment for head lice will begin immediately. Treatment includes checking all family members, shampooing all people found with lice/nits on the day of discovery and then again in 7 days, daily removal of nits, and removal of nits from the environment (washing and drying clothes, towels, and bedding on the hottest setting, vacuuming, bagging items that cannot be washed, and cleaning items used on hair).

Upon arrival to school the following day, the parent shall bring the student and all siblings that attend the same school to the front office to be checked for lice. If no live lice are found, the child will be allowed to stay in school. However, if live lice are detected, the child will be sent home for further treatment and will need to be rechecked in the front office the following day. The student will then be spot checked in the office one week and two weeks after the last live lice were seen in an effort to prevent a chronic infestation from occurring. Keep in mind that most re-infestations result from a missed nit that has hatched, matured, and gone on to lay more eggs. For infestations that do not respond to treatment, you will be referred to your child's primary health care provider.

For more information regarding head lice and their treatment please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) online at www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

School Nurse