

## RE: Head Lice (Pediculosis) Protocol

October 06, 2016

Dear Parents,

Seoul International Schools is committed to providing a healthy environment for all students and employees.

- When a student is identified with live lice at school, the family will be notified and the student will be sent home.
- A student with live lice should receive an appropriate lice treatment prior to returning to school.
- The student will be examined upon returning to school for treatment and absence of live lice and nits.
- Educational materials will be shared with the family for proper treatment of the student, other family members, and the home.
- The standard lice information letter may be sent to families of students in any grade level in which lice has been discovered.

### **Checklist for Families (Steps to take when your child is identified with live lice at school.)**

- Speak with your school nurse.
- Choose and use an appropriate treatment. In addition to your school nurse you may wish to consult with your pharmacist, pediatrician, or family physician. Carefully follow all treatment instructions.
- All household members and other close contacts should be checked, and those with live lice should also be treated at the same time.
- Discourage your child from sharing personal items such as hats, scarves, headbands, helmets, brushes, combs, or pillows to decrease the likelihood of spread from one person to another.
- All recently worn clothing, hats, bedding, and towels used by anyone having lice or thought to be exposed to lice should be washed in hot water or dry cleaned.
- Personal care items such as combs, brushes, and hair clips should also be washed in hot water or thrown away.
- Toys such as stuffed animals can be placed in a hot dryer for 30 minutes or placed in a plastic bag for two weeks.

- Check your child following treatment. If live lice or nits remain consider consultation with your school nurse, pediatrician, or family physician.
- The child that has lice or nits cannot be return until all live lice/ nits are removed.

**Facts about Head Lice**

- Head lice are not dangerous and do not transmit disease. They cause no medical harm and can be effectively treated. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.
- Life cycle of head lice: eggs or nits are cemented to the base of the hair shaft, eggs hatch into nymphs, in 7 days adult lice have matured. Lice can live 30 days on an infected head. Lice will die in 1 – 2 days off the host.
- Head lice are spread by direct contact only. They cannot jump or fly.
- All people are susceptible to head lice although some groups are more vulnerable than others.
- Most students with head lice are symptom free although some may experience itching.
- Nits visible farther than 6 mm (1/4 in) from the scalp are generally not viable and an indication of past infestation.
- Current infestation is confirmed by inspection of scalp and hair for the presence of nits, nymphs or adult lice. Lice are often difficult to spot because there are few and they move quickly.

**Treatment**

- Treatment options for head lice include over-the-counter (OTC) products purchased in a store or medications prescribed by a health care provider. These products are applied to the hair and scalp. Whatever product you use, be sure to follow the directions carefully.

**Additional Resources**

- American Academy of Pediatrics :  
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/126/2/392.full>
- Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>
- National Association of School Nurses :  
<http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/positions/2011pspediculosis.pdf>
- National PTA : [https://identify.us.com/idmybug/head-lice/head-lice-documents/pta\\_battling\\_lice.pdf](https://identify.us.com/idmybug/head-lice/head-lice-documents/pta_battling_lice.pdf)

Sincerely yours,

Yoon, SJ, R.N.  
School Nurse  
Seoul International School