



Public Schools of Edison Township

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HEALTH SERVICES **LICE INFORMATION**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Every year we receive reports of head lice in some of our schools throughout the district. It is important that parents understand that head lice infestation is not a result of unclean homes or children. Head lice are usually transmitted from one infected person to another by direct contact with hair. Such contact usually does not take place in the school setting; but rather at sleepovers, parties, and sports, or in any situation where there is head and/or clothing contact. Please take the time to educate your children not to use or share anyone else's comb, brush, hat, scarf, helmet, etc.

We recommend that parents check their children frequently for head lice during the course of the school year. Mass screening of children in school has not proven to be nearly as effective as parents actively checking their children's heads at home on a regular basis.

It is important that communication between home and school be kept open. Please notify the school nurse if you suspect this condition in your child(ren). Children who have lice or nits are excluded from school until lice and nits are no longer present on the hair. Student must have hair rechecked by the nurse before re-admittance to school.

What should you look for?

- Persistent itching or scratching behind ears and back of neck.
- Head lice are tiny, the size of sesame seeds. They are grayish-tan, wingless insects.
- They do not jump or fly; they crawl on the scalp.
- Females lay eggs called nits that are glued to the hair shaft. Eggs hatch in 10 days.
- Eggs look like dandruff, but dandruff can be easily flicked away with fingers.

What is the treatment?

- Check with your health-care provider about which shampoo to use.
- Remove the nits (eggs) that may survive after treatment
- The nits will hatch and cause re-infestation unless you comb them out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school nurse.

Thank you.

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