

**CARROLL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING**

LARRY L. LEITCH, M.A., M.P.A.  
HEALTH OFFICER, CARROLL COUNTY



P.O. BOX 845  
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND 21158-0845

TELEPHONES: 410 876-4900  
875-3390  
TTY: 410 876-4779  
FAX: 410 876-4959

[www.carrollhealthdepartment.dhmd.gov](http://www.carrollhealthdepartment.dhmd.gov)

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

This is to let you know about some changes in our procedures regarding Head Lice. Based upon current recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers For Disease Control (CDC), and the state and local health departments, we will no longer follow a "no nit" policy when head lice are found. Studies have found that exclusion from school for nits does not help prevent the spread of lice, and can have a detrimental effect on the student's education.

Students who show symptoms of head lice (extreme itching of the scalp, presence of nits on the hair shafts, etc.), will be screened by the school nurse. If the nurse finds evidence of a lice infestation, you will be notified to pick up your child from school, and treat him/her with an appropriate shampoo to kill the head lice. Once your child has been treated for head lice, they may return to school with proof of treatment (e.g., empty bottle, box from the treatment, etc.). Your child will be checked by the nurse in 10-14 days to assure there are no signs of re-infestation. No shampoo/treatment is guaranteed to kill all unhatched eggs, so additional treatment may be necessary. Removal of the nits is a very tedious procedure, but can help to assure against a re-infestation, as it is very difficult to determine if an egg sac contains a live louse, or not.

Please continue to notify the school if you should discover your child has head lice, so we can take steps to help contain the spread. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EM Ruff MD".

Elizabeth M. Ruff, M.D.  
Deputy Health Officer

EMR/chf  
ruff/liceltr