

Dear Parents:

We have recently had questions regarding current practice responding to head lice reports or prevention in our schools. Kindly refer to our health services website for complete details. For your convenience, it is summarized below.

Although it is unpleasant, the occurrence of head lice is common throughout the country. If there is a reported case of head lice, the schools follow the approved administrative procedures based on the most current, research-based information. If an infestation is verified, the infested student is sent home until treatment can be completed. If requested, parents are given information about the treatment steps to follow. The student may return to school as soon as treatment can be verified. It is important that instructional time be protected. The school also follows the established protocol for cleaning the classroom.

In addition, the school nurse examines the infested student's siblings and other known close contacts. The building administrator and school nurse have discretion about which students to examine. A letter is sent to those parents of students with whom the infested child may have had close contact. It is not best practice to either examine the entire school or notify the entire parent population regarding selected infestation of head lice. The school intends to prevent the spread of head lice while protecting a student's right to privacy.

Additional information is available on these websites:

www.nasn.org (National Organization of School Nurses)
www.dph.cdc.gov (Center for Disease Control)

Please be reminded that we are following the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control by eliminating all school head checks and additionally insuring that no violations of the HIPPA regulations take place by having outside providers or parent volunteers engage in this practice in the school setting.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Eriksen Rn Bsn Csn
Health Service Facilitator- NSSD112

Mission Statement

The mission of North Shore School District 112, a community partnership committed to a world-class education, is to nurture every child to become an inspired learner, a well-rounded individual and contributing member of a global community by striving for excellence within an environment that fosters innovation, respect, engagement and intellectual inquiry.