



Muskogee Public Schools

EVERY HEART... EVERY MIND... EVERY DAY - THE MUSKOGEE WAY!

Head Lice Parent Notification Form

Date

Dear Parents/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that head lice (live bugs) have been discovered in your child's classroom. The parents of the student(s) with head lice have been notified and the student(s) is being treated.

We ask that you check your child for head lice every night for the next two weeks. While this is inconvenient, it is not life threatening. However, your immediate attention is required to ensure that the nuisance is not spread.

Lice are spread by head-to-head contact and by sharing personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, scarves, bedding and clothes. Symptoms include itching of the head and neck. On the head you might see brownish colored insects. Lice are very small, less than 1/8 inch long. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed. The eggs (nits) are grey or white in color and are tiny (about the size of the eye of a small needle). The nits are glued to the base of a shaft of hair and are most often found along the hairline behind the ears and at the back of the neck.

Lice do not jump or fly. They crawl and can fall off the head. They do not live longer than 48 hours off the head. The ones that do fall off are thought to be dying and weak and are not viable. They only lay their eggs while on the head. The eggs do not hatch if they fall off the head. Head lice are insects that live on human heads only. Lice do not spread to or from pets.

If your child is infested with lice *it will take 7 to 10 days from when the eggs are laid until they hatch.* ** If your child has head lice (live bugs), he/she needs to stay home until treatment has occurred and no live lice are seen. **Nits are not considered live lice.**

If you have found that your child has nits or live head lice, we have included some helpful information about head lice treatments and prevention for your child and your home. You can also contact the Muskogee County Health Department, your healthcare provider or pharmacy for advice. Recommended treatment includes using either a prescription or store-bought lice killing product. Your local pharmacy will be able to offer several treatment options.

Follow the product directions carefully. With certain products a second treatment is recommended 7 to 10 days later. Lice treatment products are not 100% effective in killing lice, especially nits.

WARNING: Do not use a crème rinse, combination shampoo/conditioner, or conditioner before using lice medication. After washing out the lice medication, **DO NOT** re-wash the hair for 1-2 days after the lice medicine is removed.

Removing the nits (nit-picking) is a very important part of the treatment for controlling head lice. The nits are glued onto the hair shaft as they are laid, and require effort to remove.

It is best to remove the nits using your fingernails to slide eggs off the hair shafts. . Continue checking the head and combing hair daily for 2 weeks. All nits eventually need to be removed. If not, your child may get an active case of head lice again.

Upon returning to school and seven- ten days after the initial treatment, you and your child will be asked to check in at their main school office, so your child's head can be checked by the site nurse or health aid.

Please contact your child's school site's supervising school nurse for any further questions or assistance.