

HEAD LICE PROCEDURE AT HELLGATE ELEMENTARY...

Any pupil having head lice will be sent home. The student will be excluded from school until the student's hair is free of lice and nits (eggs). The student diagnosed with head lice will need to be checked by the school nurse before returning to school. The student, upon returning to school, must be accompanied by an adult and must report to the nurse's office where a detailed examination will be made. If there is no evidence of active lice or nits the school nurse will allow the student to re-enter school.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HEAD LICE AWARENESS:

When checking for head lice/nits, follow these measures:

1. Intense head scratching is usually the first clue that lice have come to visit. For proof; use a magnifying glass to look for tiny red bite marks on the scalp or neck, or sesame seed-sized lice eggs, called nits, "glued on" to strands of hair. (If it looks like dandruff; but won't flake--or even budge, it is probably a nit)
2. If lice or nits are suspected, there are prescription or over-the-counter shampoos such as RID, R & C, NIX, etc. Please follow directions carefully! Some shampoos require you to apply to dry hair and others state that you need to wet the hair. Remove all nits.
3. Spread or transmission of head lice or nits may be through any article coming in contact with the head, machine-wash all washable clothing and bedding that has been in-contact with the infested individuals. Articles should be washed in hot water or run articles through the hottest setting in the dryer for at least 20 minutes. If they cannot be laundered, bag and seal them up for 10 days. Combs, hairbrushes, and hair ties should be soaked in one of the pediculous shampoos or soaked in a pan of water heated to 150 degrees F. Vacuum all rugs and upholstered furniture. A hot iron can also be used to kill lice on your child's mattress and other upholstered furniture.
4. Children/students never to share, or borrow, anything that touches the head or hair, including earphones, pillows, scarves, hooded jackets, combs, brushes, hair accessories, costumes, towels, hats and other headgear.
5. Do not be fooled into thinking that you can avoid "catching" head lice by using an anti-lice treatment before any lice have been found. These products are effective only as treatments, not preventatives. Avoid "Old Time" cures as children have suffered horrific, and sometimes fatal, burns from treatments with gasoline or kerosene. Also Vaseline treatments don't effectively smother the lice.
6. Do not "Keep it a Secret". Notify school administrators and the school nurse immediately. The sooner you let people know they've been exposed, the better able they'll be to deal with it promptly and effectively and the less likely you'll catch it from them again later.
7. Notification of parents of other students will be handled on a case-by-case basis as deemed appropriate by the school nurse and building administration.