Head Lice Policy

Pediculosis capitis (head lice) is not viewed as a communicable “disease”, but a nuisance. The parasites are endemic in our area, and easily treated using over the counter products. For the health and wellbeing of the entire Holton-Arms community, we follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendation to educate our families on prevention and that students can go home in the afternoon, be treated, and return to school the following day. The AAP recommends retreatment 9 days later. They do not recommend extensive cleaning of the home because head lice do not live long away from their human hosts. The school nurse is available to perform head checks to see if any lice or nits remain, and parents will be contacted if any are discovered, but the student will be allowed to complete the school day.

The research article related to this policy can be found through the following link: http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/04/21/peds.2015-0746

For more information, please call the school nurse at 301-365-6002 or email Lori Herringa.