



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

PARENT NOTIFICATION

Dear Parents or Guardians:

We would like to inform you that a case of head lice has been discovered among a student in your child's class.

There are 8-12 million cases of head lice in our country yearly. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that students with head lice can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. Head lice are a nuisance but they have **NOT** been shown to spread disease.

What to look for: Head lice are elongated insects their adult approx. size is 2mm (as big as a sesame seed). They are grayish white with dark margins. Lice do not have wings, and therefore, cannot fly. They do not jump, but do move very quickly: this make them difficult to find in a child's hair. A Nit is a louse egg. Nits are teardrop in shape and vary in color from yellowish-brown to white. Head lice attach each nit to a hair shaft with a waterproof, cement-like bond. Thus, nits cannot be washed out or brushed out of the hair like dandruff or other debris. Clusters of nits may be found in any section of the scalp.

Treatment: Treatment is directed at the infested individual and his personal articles. E.g., caps, combs, brushes, towels, bedding, coats, etc.

If live lice or nits are found, we advise that you call your doctor. He can prescribe a very effective medicated shampoo treatment and advise instructions on its use. There are also over the counter products. Please consult with your pharmacist to recommend best option for your child. After shampooing please use special combs, also sold over the counter, to comb out nits from hair. Please **be thorough**.

Please wash all clothing, linens, etc. All items not able to wash place in commercial dryer (HOT). All stuffed animals should be place in sealed bags away from child for 2 weeks, vacuum all carpets daily.

Prevention: Comb hair daily. Use own personal brush, (Never Share or Borrow). Inspect hair regularly, DO NOT share hats, scarves, headbands etc.