

PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

HEALTH SERVICES

CLASSROOM LICE NOTIFICATION

Dear Parents or Guardians:

A case of head lice (pediculosis) was found in your child's classroom today. Although head lice are annoying, they do not pose a threat to health. Head lice are not a disease, and present NO danger. They do cause itching, but do not carry disease.

Following is a list of facts you may find helpful:

1. Head lice can affect any child from any family.
2. Cleanliness has nothing to do with getting head lice.
3. Lice are spread through close, direct physical contact with an infected person. Items such as shared combs, hats, upholstery, jackets, clothing and other items that have come into contact with infested hair can also spread lice. Please stress to your child **NEVER** to share any of these items with other children.
4. Lice have nits (lice eggs) that attach to the hair with a strong, glue-like substance, typically near the crown of the head, behind the ears, or at the nape of the neck.
5. Lice do not jump or fly. They will die within a day without a human host.
6. The first signs of lice infestation you may notice are itching, irritation and redness of the skin or scalp area. The actual infestation usually begins 30 – 35 days before any of these signs appear.

Treatment for head lice includes:

***Checking your child periodically for head lice. If you find your child has head lice, treatment must be implemented immediately and you must notify your school nurse.** Treatment requires following the instructions on the product you use. Please ask your primary care provider for a recommendation.

*It is essential to remove the nits using one's fingers and a fine tooth comb in order to limit the possibility of repeat infestations. Directions for this procedure will be included with the product you choose.

*If someone in the house has head lice, it is very important to delouse any items that came into contact with the head. This involves machine washing bed linens, clothes, towels, etc. in hot water. If your child sleeps with stuffed animals, you may place them in a sealed plastic bag for at least two weeks. Vacuum all affected areas thoroughly, emptying the vacuum bag after each cleaning. Disinfect all combs, brushes, etc. by soaking them in hot water.

Please be aware that we will check the students in your child's class and take additional cleaning steps to help limit the spread of head lice. No child is to return to school until proof of treatment has been established.

Please feel free to call me for more detailed instructions.

Nurse ___ Kathleen Kelly RN, MSN ___

Phone ___ 973-682-2815 x2402 ___