
Head Lice Information for Parents

Dear Parents or Guardians:

We would like to inform you that a potential case of head lice has been discovered among the children at _____.

There are 8-10 million cases of head lice in our country yearly, but it is comforting to know that head lice are easily eliminated with relatively easy to use treatments. The following steps will help control the spread of this potential lice outbreak.

- Children that are referred will be screened by the School Nurse or designee; however, it is recommended that parents check their children for lice weekly at home!
- If eggs / active lice are noted, use an over-the-counter pediculicide for effective treatment.
- The School Nurse or designee will re-examine your child's scalp and hair 7 – 10 days after treatment.
- Isolate all clothing and linen; wash in hot water.
- The use of lice control sprays and pesticides are discouraged due to the potential for allergic reactions and other side effects.
- Wash hands (all household members) thoroughly, especially under the nails. (Scratching is one of the early warning signals).
- Discourage sharing combs, hats, barrettes and other personal items.
- **Your child may return to school the morning after he / she has been treated with a head louse shampoo.**

Remember, head lice are nothing to panic or be embarrassed about. Their presence is no way indicative of lack of cleanliness and they are easy to eliminate when observed and treated immediately.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concern please feel free to call the school nurse or your child's doctor.

Important Reminders

- **Be patient.** This is a frustrating problem.
- **Check your children** for lice regularly and teach them to not share combs, brushes or hats.
- Avoid using lice sprays, pesticides, gasoline or other non-approved products on your child.
- Call your pediatrician if your child's lice infestation has not resolved in 1-2 weeks or if his scalp has a rash that is infected with pus or honey-colored scabs.

Atlanta Public Schools
Health Services Office