



## Notification of Head Lice

Dear Parents:

A case of head lice has been reported in your child's classroom. Please check your child for lice and if any are found, please call the school nurse as soon as possible. The following video link is included to give you more information about lice and available treatments: <https://youtu.be/z-evMjE-tml>

*Incubation period:* (the time between the exposure to the disease and the appearance of symptoms)  
7-14 days

*Contagious period:* (when the disease can be transmitted to another person)  
As long as the lice or eggs/nits are present

*Signs and Symptoms:*

The lice cause severe itching usually on the back of the head by biting the scalp to feed. The itching is caused by an allergic reaction to the bite of the louse. Your child may have a tickling feeling of something moving in the hair, redness at the nape of the neck and sores on the head caused by scratching and irritability.

*Treatment:*

Please discuss with your physician, pharmacist, or school nurse for assistance in selecting a pediculocide (lice killing) shampoo that is specifically formulated to treat head lice. The instructions on the shampoo must be followed as directed or the shampoo will not work to kill the lice. After shampooing, you must be sure to remove ALL of the nits with a lice comb or your fingers because the shampoo DOES NOT kill the nits. If any nits remain, they can hatch and your child will be reinfested.

*How this disease is spread:*

Head lice is spread from one person to another by DIRECT contact with an infested person's head or by contact with lice-infested items, such as hats, hair brushes, combs, bedding and towels. Lice cannot fly or jump.

*Control of cases:*

Notify your school. Head lice MUST be treated with a special shampoo and all live lice treated. Wash all personal items such as hats, bedding, towels, combs, etc. in hot water and soap. If the articles cannot be washed, they can be dry-cleaned or bagged for 2 weeks or placed in the freezer for 3 days. Vacuum furniture, upholstery, carpeting, mattresses, and pillows.

*General prevention measures:*

Encourage your child to wash his/her hands frequently, advise them not to share hats, combs, brushes, hair ribbons, or pillows and to report any itching immediately to an adult.

\* The school maintains a "no live lice" policy, which means that your child will not be allowed to return to school if there are any live lice present in their hair. The child MUST be checked by the school nurse before admission will be allowed.

Thank you for your assistance,  
The District 96 Nurses