

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT/GUARDIAN LETTER ABOUT LICE

Evidence of lice infestation has been found on your child. Lice are highly contagious and spread rapidly if treatment is not begun immediately. Anyone can get lice; it has nothing to do with being "clean or dirty." "Nits" can live on a discarded hair for 10 days.

TREATMENT MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 24 HOURS (CHECK WHEN COMPLETED):

- __1. Check the entire family for evidence of lice. You should look for tiny white "nits" (eggs) that attach themselves to the hair shaft. (They are most easily seen at the base of the neck and around the ears. The "nits" look like dandruff flakes, but will be difficult to remove from the hair shaft.**
- __2. Obtain medication from your Health Care Provider/pharmacy and follow the directions carefully. Every family member on which "nits" are found must use the medication. Do not wash hair for several days which eliminates the residual effects of treatment. We also recommend that household members all receive treatment at the same time. Before treatment, please check with your Health Care Provider especially for children under the age of two and/or pregnant/nursing women.**
- __3. The treatment must be repeated in 7-10 days to destroy any new eggs not destroyed in the first treatment.**
- __4. Bedding, clothing, stuffed animals should be washed in hot, sudsy water and dried in the hot dryer for 30-40 minutes (not fluffed). Place nonwashable clothing in plastic bags and send to the dry cleaners. (The dry cleaner must be informed of the problem). Nonwashable clothing may also be treated by placing in plastic bags in the hot sun for 72 hours or by sealing and isolating for 30 days.**
- __5. Spray upholstered areas/carpet with a Pediculicide spray or 2% Lysol solution. Vacuum your furniture and carpets thoroughly. Spray Pediculicide spray up vacuum hose before disposing of the vacuum bag in a sealed plastic bag.**
- __6. Soak brushes, combs, hair products and accessories i.e. berets, scrunchies, in the treatment solution. Spray bike helmets, bookbags, etc. Do not allow clothing, combs, towels, and bedding to be shared with family members or friends.**
- __7. It is not recommended that household pets be treated.**
- __8. After using the medicated shampoo, remove all "nits" with a special comb or by running a fingernail down each hair shaft. Dispose of the "nits" in paper or plastic.**
- __9. Check heads of household members for 10 days after finding last nit/louse.**

PREVENTION MUST BE PROMOTED BY CONTINUAL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT WHICH INCLUDES ROUTINE HEAD CHECKING AT HOME!!!!!!!!!!

READMISSION TO SCHOOL:

- 1. Your child may return to school after the first medicated treatment, as long as you provide proof of treatment and the child is "nit free". This may include the label from the shampoo, bottle of medication used, etc. and/or a Health Care Provider's note stating that treatment has been completed.**
- 2. The school nurse/nurse will check your child's head when he/ she returns to school.**
- 3. The complete treatment must be repeated in 7-10 days. If you have any questions, please call the school office at _____.**