Control of Head Lice in Schools

School personnel shall actively pursue the prevention and control of head lice in the District’s schools by developing a consistent education, screening and follow-up program.

1 When students are observed/reported to have live head lice or nits any time during the school year, the following steps shall be taken:
   a. Playmates closely associated with the student and siblings of the student may be checked for the presence of live lice and/or nits. In general, school-wide checks are not necessary.
   b. Parents of each student identified as having live lice or nits will be contacted by a school/District representative advising them of the finding. The student shall wait for pick up in an area designated by the school principal.

2 Principals or school/District personnel shall offer parents of students identified as having live lice or nits:
   a. Visual evidence of live lice or nits in the student’s hair.
   b. Verbal and/or written information/direction for hair treatment and household procedures.

3 In all instances when personnel identify live lice or nits, they shall confirm with the parent/guardian the following:
   a. The parent/guardian shall comb the student’s hair with an actual lice/nit comb and/or apply special lice killing shampoo on the same or next day.
   b. Designated school personnel shall check the student for presence of live lice or nits before s/he rides the school bus or returns to the classroom. If live lice or nits remain, re-establish steps 2 and 3 above.

4 Family Resource/Youth Service Center staff shall follow up with parents of students found with a second and subsequent cases of live head lice or nits to assure that:
   a. Prescribed medical treatment for live lice was applied to the student’s hair no later than the next day.
   b. Any second application required was applied within the recommended time frame.

5 The Community Education Coordinator shall:
   a. Establish education/information on head lice control methods for school personnel, community members, students and parents.
   b. Provide each school with written materials on head lice control and prevention.
Dear Parent/Guardian:

Today, we found the presence of head lice and/or nits in your child’s hair. Please do not feel embarrassed, as we’re all susceptible to contracting head lice. Be assured, every effort was made to ensure your child’s confidentiality.

Lice spread by direct contact with an infested person or indirectly from personal items such as hats. Nits are brown or white eggs that attach to individual hairs before hatching into live insects. Nits, if not removed, may hatch resulting in a continuation of the problem. The school has provided the following general information to assist you in proper treatment for head lice.

Once you have completed treatment, including removing all live lice and nits, BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL so the SCHOOL NURSE or designated school staff can re-check his/her hair. No child will be permitted to ride the bus or return to the classroom without first being re-checked for the presence of lice.

STUDENTS MUST RETURN TO SCHOOL LICE AND NIT FREE. Thank you.

HAIR AND HOME CARE

Don’t panic! Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with cleanliness, nor does it reflect on you as a parent. The problem is easily eliminated. Simply follow these instructions:

- Check all other family members to see if they are infested. Any family member with evidence of head lice must also be treated.
- Use an effective head lice treatment. Your Pharmacist, Physician, or School Nurse can recommend an effective pediculicide product. When used as directed, it will be very effective in killing head lice. Because no lice treatment product kills all the eggs with one (1) treatment, it is necessary to repeat the treatment in 7-10 days.
- Removing all nits (lice eggs) is the best way to prevent re-infestation. Special combs for this task are usually provided with lice treatment products.
- Wash all clothes, bed linens, and towels in hot water and dry on hot cycle for at least 20 minutes. Items that cannot be safely washed, such as stuffed animals, should be dry cleaned, or stored outside the home or stored in air-tight plastic bags for a minimum of two (2) weeks. Clean combs and brushes in hot, soapy water. Water should be at least 130 degrees Fahrenheit, and it is advisable to let combs and brushes soak in the hot water for 10 minutes.
- Vacuum everywhere to make sure your home is free of lice. Vacuum carpets, pillows, mattresses, upholstered furniture, upholstered car seats; anything that might hold lice. Do a thorough job and discard the vacuum bag promptly.
- Contact Family Resource/Youth Service Center staff for additional assistance.

HEAD LICE SURVIVE ONLY ON HUMANS AND DO NOT AFFECT FAMILY PETS.

TO ELIMINATE HEAD LICE AND NITS FROM YOUR HOME, FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ABOVE.

DOING A THOROUGH JOB WILL PREVENT THEIR SPREAD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.