



HEALTH ALERT: HEAD LICE

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the hair and scalp of an infected individual. They hatch from small eggs, called nits that are firmly attached to the individual hairs near the scalp and cannot be easily moved up or down the hair shaft. Lice are **NOT** a sign of unclean people or homes. They can occur at any age and affect either sex. All children in the class are being checked for lice. Please check your child's hair for the next 3 weeks.

- **SIGNS:** Itchy scalp, tiny oval shaped, pearly white specks attached firmly to the hair shaft, louse and possibly bite/ scratch marks on the scalp and neck.
- **TRANSMISSION:** Direct crawling from person to person or onto shared personal items. Lice can survive 1 - 2 days away from the scalp.
- **INCUBATION:** 6-10 days.
- **TREATMENT:** Thoroughly wash hair with special shampoo, which kills the lice and the eggs. **All belongings are to be taken home and must be washed with hot water and dried using the hot cycle.**
- **EXCLUSION:** Child may return after 24 hours after treatment with a doctor's note. No appearance of eggs should be seen.

Home care:

1. All family members should be checked carefully for evidence of lice and treated accordingly.
2. All linens, clothing, hats, etc., should be washed in **hot water** and dried on a hot cycle.
3. Brushes, combs, cups, etc., should be washed with **hot water**. The special shampoo can be used to wash these items.
4. Carpets, upholstery (including the upholstery in your car) must be thoroughly vacuumed.
5. Any items that cannot be washed or vacuumed can be sealed in an air tight bag for 2 weeks.

02.25.25