



## Head Lice Letter

Health Services  
Mat-Su Borough School District  
501 N. Gulkana  
Palmer, AK 99645  
P: (907) 746-9200

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent,

We have recently found some cases of head lice in some of our schools. Please check your child(ren) periodically and if you find evidence of head lice, immediate treatment should be given. If your child requires treatment please contact your school nurse so she will know to assess other students who have close contact or might have shared personal items.

No special equipment is needed, but good lighting is essential. Parasites and nits can be found anywhere on the head, but are more commonly found at the nape of the neck and behind the ears. To examine your child(ren), part the hair in small sections. If you find anything suspicious, contact your school nurse or your health care provider for assistance in examining your child(ren) and for recommendations about treatment.

Our District **Head Lice Policy** BP 5141.22(b) is as follows:

“Upon notification of suspected cases of head lice, the school nurse or designee will examine the student. The student will remain in his/her classroom for the remainder of the day.

If live lice are found in the hair, the parent will be notified to use over-the-counter treatment, via phone, email, and/or a note sent home with the student. The next day, an examination of the student will take place by the school nurse or designee. The student may remain at school if there is no presence of live lice. If there are nits present, the student may remain in school. Presence of nits does not indicate active infestation.

Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been known to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice. In cases that involve head lice, as in all school health issues, the student’s privacy will be protected.”

Lice are “equal opportunity” parasites. They infest all socioeconomic groups, races, genders and ages, but are more commonly found in children due to their close contact with each other. While head lice are not considered an infectious disease, they are contagious. Head lice are wingless insects and cannot jump or fly. They move by crawling and are spread primarily through direct head to head contact such as during close play at home or school, slumber parties, sports activities or camp. It is also possible, though not common, to spread head lice through the sharing of personal items such as hats, scarves, helmets, brushes, combs, towels or pillows. It is important for you to know that lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and they do not spread disease. If someone in your child’s class at school develops head lice, there is no reason to panic and automatically assume that your child will “catch” head lice. Head lice do not jump from person to person.

If you have questions please contact me or your school nurse.

Thank you,

Health services coordinator, Mat-Su Borough School District