

School Board of Brevard County

2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way • Viera, FL 32940-6601

Mark W. Mullins, Ed.D., Superintendent



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 9, 2021

TO: All Principals

FROM: Dr. Jayna Jenkins, Director
Student Support Services *J.J.*

RE: Head Lice Information and Brochure

Please share the following head lice information with your parents and staff **now and frequently during the school year** to provide awareness to all families about the control of head lice.

Attached please find a brochure regarding head lice for you to place in your newsletters, and to send home to your parents now and at any other time during the year you deem necessary. Additionally, I have attached the letter that must be sent to all parents of children who are found to have live head lice. Our procedures require if the child is identified as having live head lice, the child must be treated at home and must be accompanied to the school clinic the next day with the parent to check for live head lice. If no nits are found, further rechecking will not be done. If nits are found, the student will be readmitted and checked in 8-10 days. If live lice are found, the student will **not** be readmitted, and the entire procedure will need to be repeated.

Please share this information with all your parents through the various means you have available, including newsletters and your school webpage. In addition, any time there is an increase in the number of children identified as having head lice please send home the attached brochure as a reminder to parents to check their child's head. You may also include the attached letter in a newsletter or on your letterhead to parent in specific grade levels or whole school notification.

Please do not send this letter out to specific classrooms of children; only use it for grade-level or whole school notification. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is very clear on this issue. It states: **"Information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty."**

The best prevention for head lice is for parents and teachers to educate children about not sharing combs, brushes, hair barrettes, and clothing such as hats, and for children to avoid head-to-head contact. In addition, parents can assist in preventing the spread of head lice by checking their child's hair as part of a normal hygiene routine.

pc: Asst. Superintendent, Student Services
Asst. Superintendent, Elementary Leading & Learning
Asst. Superintendent, Secondary of Leading & Learning
Maureen M. Kelly, RN, MSN, Senior Community Health Nursing Supervisor, DoH - Brevard

Jayna Jenkins, Ed.D.

Student Support Services

Phone: (321) 633-1000, ext. 11567 • FAX: (321) 631-3589



Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Head Lice

Head Lice (*pediculus humanus capitis*) are insects found on heads of people. Head lice live only on humans. They live on the hairs of the head especially behind the ears and back of the head. They cannot fly or jump but only crawl. Head lice are not a health hazard. They do not spread disease. Head lice move from one person's head to another in the following ways: head to head contact, sharing hair brushes, combs, hats, towels, clothing or bedding with someone who has lice.

To avoid head lice from spreading, teach children not to touch or play with each other's hair. They should also not share combs, brushes, pillows, hats, towels, coats or other clothing. Following these simple rules will greatly reduce the spread of head lice.

Head lice are treatable. Various shampoos (pediculicides) are available over the counter without a doctor's order. Directions need to be followed according to individual products. Combs and hairbrushes should be soaked in hot water for 5 minutes or washed with lice shampoo. Disinfecting furniture and insecticide sprays are not necessary or recommended.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov.

Cut along line and return bottom portion to school clinic

This statement is to verify that I treated my child for head lice. I understand I must accompany my child to the clinic for readmission to school and he/she will be checked by clinic staff or school administration for proof there are no live lice.

Child's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature/Date

HD 312E (rev 7-19)

School Letterhead

Date:

Re: School Health Records

Missing: _____

Student Name: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The health records of your child have been reviewed again by the Florida Department of Health following the notice sent to you previously. Your child's records still do not comply with Florida state laws (F.S. 1003.22) as indicated on the student health records review form.

_____ will be temporarily excluded from attending school beginning _____ until his/her health records are brought into compliance with the law. All absences during this time will be classified as unexcused.

Immunizations and/or physical examinations can be obtained from a private physician or immunizations from Florida Department of Health in Brevard, free with no appointment! A copy of your child's shot record is required.

If you have any questions concerning these requirements, please contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Principal

cc: Asst. Superintendent of Student Services

SCHOOL LETTERHEAD

Date

Dear Parents,

We have been notified of a case of head lice in your child's grade level. To prevent the spread of head lice, please see the attached brochure. In addition, please carefully check your child's head, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck, for crawling lice and nits if your child exhibits symptoms of a head lice infestation (source: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html>) prior to sending him/her to school. Should lice be found, your child must be treated prior to sending or returning to school.

You can assist with controlling the spread of head lice by reminding your child about not sharing combs, brushes, hair barrettes, and clothing such as hats, and for children to avoid head-to-head contact. In addition, parents can assist in preventing the spread of head lice by checking their child's hair as part of a normal hygiene routine.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at **school phone number**.

Thank you.

Principal name and signature

Head Lice Facts

- Head lice are common among all classes of people.
- You can completely control a head lice infestation with manual removal alone. You cannot completely control head lice with head lice shampoos alone. You must combine shampoo treatment with manual removal.

(University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C851>)

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- Most cases of head lice are acquired outside of the school.
- Head lice cause no medical harm.
- Head lice are transmitted by head-to-head contact.

(University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C851>)



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Taken with permission from <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/prevent.html>

Head Lice

Facts and
prevention



Head Lice Prevention and Control



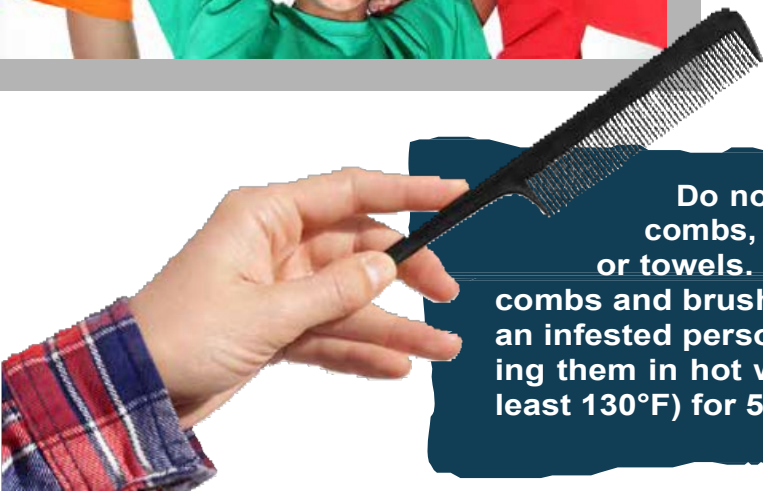
Head lice are spread most commonly by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. However, much less frequently they are spread by

sharing clothing or belongings onto which lice have crawled or nits attached to shed hairs may have fallen. The risk of getting infested by a louse that has fallen onto a carpet or furniture is very small. Head lice survive less than 1–2 days if they fall off a person and cannot feed; nits cannot hatch and usually die within a week if they are not kept at the same temperature as that found close to the scalp.

The following are steps that can be taken to help prevent and control the spread of head lice:



Avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact during play and other activities at home, school, and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, slumber parties, camp).



Do not share combs, brushes, or towels. Disinfest combs and brushes used by an infested person by soaking them in hot water (at least 130°F) for 5–10 minutes.



Do not lie on beds, couches, pillows, carpets, or stuffed animals that have recently been in contact with an infested person.

Machine wash and dry clothing, bed linens, and other items that an infested person wore or used during the 2 days before treatment using the hot water (130°F) laundry

cycle and the high heat drying cycle. Clothing and items that are not washable can be dry-cleaned OR sealed in a plastic bag and stored for 2 weeks.



Vacuum the floor and furniture, particularly where the infested person sat or lay. However, spending much time and money on housecleaning activities is not necessary to avoid reinfestation by lice or nits that may have fallen off the head or crawled onto furniture or clothing.

Do not share clothing such as hats, scarves, coats, sports uniforms, hair ribbons, or barrettes.



Do not use fumigant sprays or fogs; they are not necessary to control head lice and can be toxic if inhaled or absorbed through the skin.