

SCHOOL NURSE INFORMATION FOR PARENT HANDBOOK

Head Lice is a nuisance... a persistent, “pest” type of health issue. Head lice are not a reportable communicable disease. To that end, our district has adopted Head Lice Protocols and Procedures that are in alignment with current medical and scientific research.

- If a student is found to have head lice and/or nits, office staff will check the student’s siblings if they are in the immediate school. The parent is notified and the student (s) is not sent home but if parents ask to pick up their student (s) we welcome that move.
- Information related to the detection and elimination of head lice is sent home with the student in a sealed envelope and the parent is instructed that the student should be treated before returning to school. Confidentiality of student information is maintained in compliance with the law.
- If the student has other siblings (not in the immediate school building), the parents/guardian are asked to check all family members and to take precautionary measures to avoid family infestation. They are also asked **to inform day care, if appropriate, and to inform the parents of close friends who may have come in contact with their child, especially if there have been sleepovers.**
- Follow up head checks will be done by school staff to confirm lice management efforts. If future checks reveal an increased number of nits present or continued live lice and it is obvious to the screener that the student’s hair has not been treated, the parent will be contacted for follow-up and support.
- Schools do not do classroom checks when a student is found or reported to have lice and/or nits. As noted above, scientific research and recommendations guide our practice and the Center for Disease Control states “Current evidence does not support the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of classroom or school-wide screening for decreasing the incidence of head lice among children”. Furthermore, this also gives the impression that head lice originate in schools, which research shows that it does not-it is in the community and all around us. For these reasons as well, letters are not sent out each time there is a case of head lice in a classroom. This heightens the anxiety and distress that parents feel around the issue.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please go to the district webpage at www.edmonds.wednet.edu to the STUDENT WELLNESS button on the left lower corner of the district webpage>HEALTH button> HEAD LICE AT SCHOOL PROTOCOL.