

318-3 Appendix Head Lice Notification Letter to all Parents

HEAD LICE

(School)

(Date)

Dear Parent:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that at least one case of head lice has been identified in our school. Although head lice do not pose any health hazard, they can be unpleasant and certainly are a nuisance. Head lice are not related to a lack of cleanliness, and are just as commonly found in clean hair.

What are lice?

Head lice are small, grayish or brown insects that live and breed in human hair. They cannot fly or jump, but can move very quickly from one head to another during direct head to head contact. Lice move freely on the shaft of hair but cling so tightly that brushing, combing, and washing with regular shampoo will not remove them. This is different than dandruff, as dandruff is not attached to the hair and can be easily brushed off.

Adult lice lay eggs, called nits, on the shaft of the hair. A nit is small, oval-shaped, grayish-white in colour and firmly attached to the hair. Adult lice may bite the scalp, which causes intense itching.

How can I detect if my child has lice?

To detect head lice, carefully examine hair close to the scalp. Look closely at the back of the head close to the neck and behind the ears. Look for nits. Adult lice will be difficult to see as they move quickly and avoid light.

They can be easily spread by shared use of combs and clothing and through close physical contact, i.e. play.

We are requesting that you check your own child's hair immediately. If you find evidence of head lice, do not be alarmed or embarrassed, as it can happen to anyone.

Head lice can be managed effectively with the use of an appropriate medicated product. This treatment is to be repeated in one week. Nits must be removed from the child's hair to reduce the possibility of re-infesting the child.

It is very important to check all family members if one child has lice, and treat all persons found to be infested.

The attached information is to help you deal with this problem in the quickest and most effective manner. If you would like more information please contact Alberta Health Services.

Sincerely,

Principal

Attachment?