

School Board of Brevard County

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

Desmond K. Blackburn, Ph.D., Superintendent



January 22, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principals

FROM: Beth Thedy, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent *EBB*
Student Services and Exceptional Student Education

RE: Head Lice Information and Brochure

Please share the following head lice information with your parents and staff **now and frequently during the second semester** in order 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/legal guardian 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 rechecked 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 of your parents through the various means you have available; including newsletters, Edline, 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 parents 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.**

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.

Thank you.

Cc: Alicia Reyes-Perez, School Health Liaison
Department of Health - Brevard

Elizabeth G. Thedy, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Student Services
Phone: (321) 633-1000, ext. 270 • FAX: (321) 633-3454



Head Lice Facts

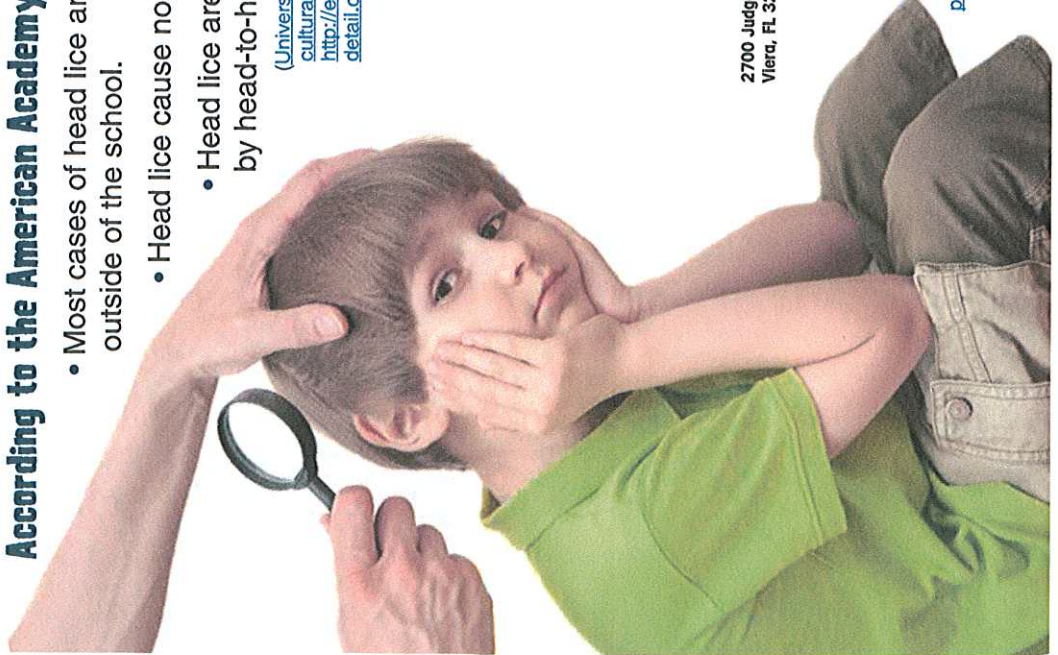
- Head lice are common among all classes of people.
- You can completely control a head lice infestation with manual removal alone. You cannot completely control head lice with head lice shampoos alone. You must combine shampoo treatment with manual removal.

(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

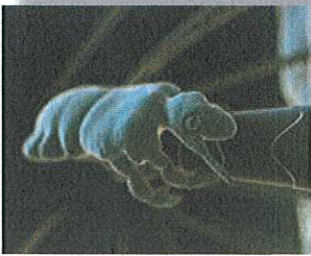
Facts and prevention



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

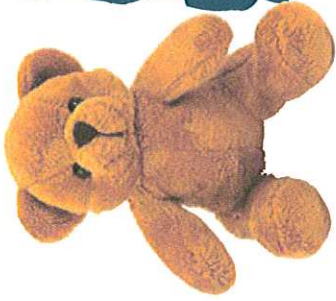
sharing clothing or belongings onto which lice have crawled or nits attached to shed hairs may have fallen. The risk of getting infested by a louse that has fallen onto a carpet or furniture is very small. Head lice survive less than 1–2 days if they fall off a person and cannot feed; nits cannot hatch 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, play-ground, slumber parties, camp).



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 OR sealed 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 reinestation by lice or nits that may have fallen off the head or crawled onto furniture or clothing.

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



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.

SCHOOL LETTERHEAD

Date

Dear Parents,

We have been notified of a case of head lice in your child's grade level. In order to prevent the spread of head lice, please see 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, child must be treated prior to sending or returning to school.

You can assist with controlling the spread of head lice by reminding your 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.

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

Thank you.

Principal name and signature

Mission:

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



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Phillip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

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 05-16)

Florida Department of Health
in Brevard County
2575 North Courtenay Parkway • Merritt Island, Florida 32953-4147
<http://brevard.floridahealth.gov>

www.FloridaHealth.gov
TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh
FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla