



## PARENT HANDOUT FOR LICE

When a student is found to have evidence of head lice or nits, it is required that the student be immediately removed from all classroom/school sponsored activities and that the student is sent home.

Head lice is a common community issue and can be transmitted during close personal contact with other individuals who have head lice or by sharing personal items of other individuals who have head lice. It is most often spread by head to head contact, or by sharing of combs, brushes or head gear. Head lice do not fly, jump, hop or infect pets. Lice are not dangerous and do not transmit diseases. However, secondary infections can occur from scratching.

### Signs and Symptoms:

- Tickling feeling or something moving in the hair.
- Itching, caused by an allergic reaction to the bites. Be aware that in some individuals this is not always present as a symptom.
- Visible lice crawling on scalp and hair.
- Irritability, sleeplessness.
- Sores on the head caused by scratching that may become infected.
- Always contact your health care provider if you notice nits in the child's eyelashes. Do not use over the counter treatments around the eyes.

### Lice Treatment Options:

Contact your healthcare provider on the best treatment options for your student, especially if you have been using over the counter treatments frequently and you are finding they are not working. Treatment failure has many causes.

Select a lice treatment option that kills the lice and nits. Students are required to be lice and nit free in order to return to school. **Treatment is only effective if the product label instructions are followed carefully. Failure to do so can cause re-infestation and increase resistance to the product.**

All individuals with active infestation should be treated at the same time. Use a fine-toothed metal comb (nit comb) to **remove all nits** from hair and scalp. Hand picking may be necessary for nits not removed with the nit comb.

Wash clothing and linens in hot water; dry-clean non-washable items or place in sealed plastic bags for two weeks. Soak combs, brushes, etc. in hot water (130°F) for 10 minutes. Vacuum all carpets, pillows, mattresses and upholstered furniture including car seats.

Parents are advised to check their child daily for the next 10 days for evidence of re-infestation of lice or treatment failure.

### Mass / School-wide Lice Screenings:

Mass / school-wide screenings are of little value and are not recommended. (American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Florida Department of Health (DOH)). A screening for lice and nits will be completed by the health staff upon referral of individual students. A positive screening of a student will require siblings to be screened as well. Only the parent/guardian of the child with head lice will be contacted to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

### Exclusion Criteria:

Evidence of head lice or nits.

### Readmission Criteria:

Student must be 100% lice and nit free.

The parent/guardian must bring the student to the Health Room for clearance to return to class. If a child returns to school and is positive for nits, or live lice, exclusion will again apply as will procedures for returning to school.