



GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Elementary School
Street Address
City, Michigan ZIP

Phone: 313/432-XXXX
Fax: 313/432-XXXX

HEAD LICE

Office of Principal

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At least one case of head lice has been found in your child's classroom, so parents of all students are being notified. This is not cause for panic; it is cause for action to be taken to prevent or treat head lice. Each year millions of school-aged children in the United States get head lice. Though head lice may be a nuisance, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states that they are not a health hazard or a sign of poor hygiene and, in contrast to body lice, are not responsible for the spread of any disease. As such, the AAP and health department policies state no healthy child should be excluded from or miss school because of head lice, and no-nit policies for return to school should be abandoned.

The following is information to help you check for, treat, and prevent the spread of head lice. Head lice are tiny insects, about the size of a sesame seed (2-3 mm long) and tan or grayish white in color. It is extremely important for you to check your child's head every two days until there are no head lice found for 10 consecutive days.

The best way to prevent transmission:

- Teach children not to share combs, brushes, helmets, hair ornaments, hats, caps, scarves, headsets, or any other personal headgear. Do not try on other people's hats even in department stores.
- Teach children to hang coats separately—placing hats and scarves inside coat/jacket sleeves.
- Clean or disinfect shared headgear with Lysol or rubbing alcohol before being used by others.
- Conduct regular head checks of your child.

If lice are found on your child:

- Check others in the household for signs of lice or nits. If found, complete remaining steps on all.
- Remove nits from the head by combing sections of hair in a well-lit room. This is the most important lice control measure. Complete nit removal is time-consuming but is critical for successful treatment.
- Use an effective, non-toxic head lice treatment and follow directions carefully. Note precautions for pregnant women and people with asthma. Home remedies like using petroleum jelly, mayonnaise, tub margarine, herbal oils, or olive oil have not been scientifically proven to work. Also, never coat your child's hair with dangerous products like gasoline or kerosene, or use products that are made for use on animals.
- Remove all lice from the environment by washing and vacuuming. Wash clothes, towels, hats, and bed linens in hot water and dry on high heat.
- Perform daily head checks and remove nits for three weeks until head lice are gone. Continue to check your child weekly to detect reinfestation. If you have difficulties treating the head lice on your child, please contact the school, local health department, or your child's physician.
- For more information go to: www.michigan.gov and search for the Michigan Head Lice Manual

Sincerely,

Principal

Elementary