

LETTER TO PARENT/GUARDIAN OF STUDENT WITH HEAD LICE

To: Parent/Guardian of _____ Date _____

During a screening examination, your child was found to have head lice.

Your child will be excluded from school until **COMPLETELY FREE OF HEAD LICE**. When your child returns to school, **PLEASE ACCOMPANY OR HAVE AN ADULT ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD**. Your child **MUST BE REEXAMINED** by school personnel in the clinic or office at the time of readmission.

1. TREATMENT

Several shampoos or products to kill head lice are on the market. Some can be bought over-the-counter, while others require a prescription from your child's health care provider. *Note: Medicaid benefits may cover the cost of prescription medications.* **All** persons in the household, including adults, should be checked and treated, if necessary. Consult a health care provider for children under the age of 2 years or use on pregnant women.

2. PROCEDURE

- a. Apply head lice medicine according to the instructions contained in the box or printed on the label. Do not use a combination shampoo/conditioner, or conditioner before using lice medicine. Do not re-wash the hair for 1-2 days after the lice medicine is removed.
- b. Strip nits and lice from hair by hand or with a nit comb or other fine-toothed comb.
- c. If a few live lice are still found 8-12 hours after treatment, but are moving more slowly than before, do not retreat. The medicine may take longer to kill all the lice.
- d. If after 8-12 hours of treatment, no dead lice are found and lice seem as active as before, the medicine may not be working. Do not retreat until speaking with your child's health care provider.
- e. After each treatment, checking the hair and combing with a nit comb to remove nits and lice every 2-3 days may decrease the chance of self-reinfestation. Continue to check for 2-3 weeks to be sure all lice and nits are gone.
- f. Machine wash and dry clothing, bed linens, and other items that the 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 can be dry-cleaned or sealed in a plastic bag and stored for 2 weeks.
- g. Soak combs and brushes in a hot water (at 130°F) for 5 to 10 minutes.
- h. Vacuum the floor and furniture, particularly where the infested person sat or lay.
- i. To prevent spread of head lice, do not share articles that come in contact with head, neck, or shoulders. Example: combs, scarves, hats, coats, etc.

Your child will be readmitted to school immediately after treatment is confirmed to be effective by the absence of live lice. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your school nurse. You may also obtain further information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Website at <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/>.

Thank you for your cooperation.