



TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/ Guardian:

We became aware of several cases of head lice at your child's school. . Educational facts are listed below for your review.

1. Head lice are extremely small brown, black or grayish white insects about the size of a sesame seed. They have 6 legs on their upper body which allows them to crawl. Lice DO NOT jump, fly or swim. They live in the hair on the head and lay eggs called "nits." Lice live approximately 30 days and lay approximately 6 eggs per day. The "nits" hatch in 7 to 10 days and then the cycle repeats itself.
2. Anyone can get head lice. It is not an indication of poor hygiene. Any place children get together such as schools, sleepovers, and camp, they are at risk for getting lice. Lice are spread from person to person by crawling. This can happen by head to head contact. Sharing hair ties, headbands or barrettes, sharing hats, coats, scarves, combs, brushes, helmet, headphones or by coming in contact with infested bedding and or towels will put you at risk as well.
3. If your child complains of frequent head itching, check for nits which are tear dropped and attach to the hair shaft. Nits cannot be flicked or easily removed from the hair.
4. Head lice are treated with over the counter products designed to kill the lice. Some brands are Nix, Rid, Clear and Pronto. Check with your doctor before using these products if you are pregnant or your child is younger than 2 years old.
5. Since lice can crawl, it is important to thoroughly clean the environment. Vacuum all the carpeting, furniture and pillows. Wash in hot water and dry on hot setting.
6. **Children with live lice or nits cannot be in school.** Once your child has been treated, he/she can return to school and the parent must provide proof of treatment to the school nurse. There can be no evidence of nits in the student's hair.
7. The school district's policy can be found on the Franklin Township District Website. The policy number is 8454.

Please tell the school nurse if your child has head lice. She can help with the diagnosis and treatment.

Thank you,
Franklin Township School District Nursing Staff

