



Prince George's County Public Schools
14201 School Lane • Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 • www.pgcps.org

Date:

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian:

A case of pediculosis (head lice) has been identified at our school. Your support in assisting us to address this issue is appreciated.

Please examine your child's head today. Since head lice is a common occurrence, especially in elementary school, it is a good practice to examine your child's head weekly to make sure he/she does not have head lice.

The following signs or symptoms indicate that the condition may be present:

1. Persistent itching of the scalp.
2. An insect about 1/8 inch long in the hair, around the ears and the back of the neck. The lice are almost always found in layers of hair underneath the top layer.
3. Tan or white nits (eggs) approximately the size of a flake of dandruff and firmly attached to the hair shaft in the same area.

If you suspect this condition, contact your health care provider as soon as possible for diagnosis and treatment. The School Nurse should be notified if your child has pediculosis. In addition, all members of the household should be examined and treated if lice are observed, unless your usual source of health care advises other measures. Please note, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children with nits alone NOT be treated with pediculocide; instead these children should be monitored for 14 days to be sure no live lice appear.

This condition is not serious, but can be spread from person to person. Pediculosis is a national problem. The reason for the increase in cases is not known, but it is definitely not due to poor hygiene. Animals are not affected by this condition so no treatment is required for your pets.

The following procedures should be done to eliminate this problem:

1. Wash bed linens, towels, scarves, and other clothing in very hot water.
2. Place combs and brushes in boiling water for 5-10 minutes.
3. Vacuum furniture, car seats, pillows, mattresses, rugs, and floors.
4. Discourage the sharing of combs, clothes, and towels among infected persons.
5. Place objects that cannot be washed or vacuumed (e.g. stuffed animals, pillows and clothing that must be dry cleaned) in a tightly sealed plastic bag for 14 days.

For more information on head lice and its management, contact the Office of Health Services at 301 749-4556 or contact your School Nurse at _____ (phone).

Principal

School Nurse