



Bakersfield City School District

*School Health
and Wellness*

School Health and Wellness
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HEAD LICE CLASSROOM LETTER

Dear Parent:

Head lice have been found on some students in our school and we need your cooperation to prevent the lice from spreading. These students are being treated and will be permitted to return to school when they no longer have lice. Lice spreads easily, so you will want to inspect the hair and scalp of your student for nits (eggs) for a period of ten (10) days, which is the length of time it takes for eggs to hatch.

Pediculosis, or head lice, is a condition that is common among students. Head lice are parasites that are generally found on the scalp, around the ears, and at the back of the neck. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, and can be the color of your child's hair. Eggs, or nits, are smaller and silver in color.

Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and they do not transmit disease. The head louse is passed from person to person by close contact and/or the use of another person's comb, brush, headgear, etc. This is one reason it is important to instruct students not to use the personal articles of others.

The louse is a small, flat, grayish insect. It does not hop or fly, and is found only on humans. The louse's eggs, called nits, appear as tiny white specks bonded (cemented) to individual hair shafts near the scalp.

Look for nits behind the ears and on the nape of the neck (upper back of the neck). They resemble dandruff but stick firmly to the hair. Head scratching is often the first sign that there is a problem. If, upon inspection, you suspect that your student might have either nits (eggs) or lice, it is strongly recommended that you discuss treatment with your healthcare provider. The use of lice shampoos without evidence of nits will not prevent your child from getting lice.

We are taking every precaution possible at school. However, to control this "nuisance problem" we need the help and the cooperation of every parent. If you find that your student has lice please keep them out of school until they have been treated and please notify us so that we may remain aware of the extent of the problem. Students should miss no more than one or two days for the treatment of head lice and all members of the family must be treated on the same day if one person in the family shows evidence of head lice.

For further information on prevention and treatment of head lice call the school office.

Sincerely,

Principal

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