

Summit Public Schools
Health Office

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recurrent lice outbreaks continue to be a challenge in our schools. During this time it is important for all parents to closely monitor their children for any signs and symptoms of lice, even if initially cleared by their school nurse. Please note that the lice screenings performed by the Summit School Nurses are cursory exams, looking for overt signs of infestation. If you suspect that your child has lice, please contact your health care provider or professional lice removal establishment for treatment recommendations.

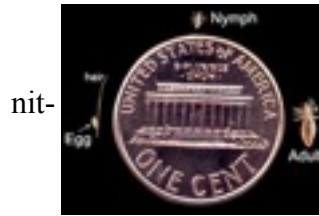
We would like to share some lice facts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Harvard School of Public Health and the CDC.

1. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, head lice infestations in the US are common among children 3-12 years of age and are not a sign of uncleanliness.
2. Lice do not hop, jump or fly; the most common way of getting lice is direct touching, head-to-head.
3. Lice are not passed on pets. The only place head lice can survive and thrive is on the human head.
4. When found, many cases of head lice are already 3-4 weeks old. One sign is a red itchy rash on the back of the neck, just below the hairline.
5. Because of use and overuse of head lice shampoos, head lice have become resistant to the products that once would kill them, so no head lice product is 100 % effective, even if you follow the directions to the letter. That is why combing and nit removal is essential.
6. Never treat or retreat "just in case" in the absence of live lice. Head lice products are pesticides, which are toxic if overused and can be absorbed through the skin. Follow the directions carefully.
7. Removing the nits (eggs) and live lice with a special metal-tooth comb is time-consuming but the most effective way to get rid of them. They do not wash out.
8. Head lice are not a source of infection or disease; they are simply a nuisance.

9. One of the biggest challenges in eliminating head lice is parents' discomfort in communicating about the problem with other parents when they find head lice, so they are more easily passed back and forth among close friends and relatives.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,
Summit School Nurses



(Photo from the CDC)

References:

American Academy of Pediatrics (www.aap.org)

National Pediculosis Association (www.headlice.org)

CDC (www.cdc.org)