

South Central C.U.S.D. #401

Tracy Hulsey, RN, AND
810 E. 1st St.
Kinmundy, Illinois
618-547-7696 Fax 618-547-3144

Date _____

Student _____

Dear Parent or Guardian,

During head checks today, we found live nits or live bugs on your child's head. It is school policy to send your child home if they have head lice.

Students must be treated or have live nits (eggs) and live bugs removed to return to school. Students must be brought back to school by a parent or guardian to have their head checked before they may return. The bus will not pick up or drop off your child unless they have been rechecked by the nurse.

The school is a mandated reporter for neglect of children. Your child will be excused from school for up to 48 hours to allow for treatment of lice. However, any days missed after that pertaining to head lice will not be excused. This will result in excessive absences requiring us to report to the Marion County Truancy office. Continual school absences and unresolved, chronic head lice case are required to be reported to the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (Public Aid Office).

I realize controlling this problem takes a great deal of time, effort and expense. On the back side of this paper is information regarding head lice and some helpful instructions to control head lice. Please review and follow the instructions on the back side of this paper.

Thank you for your cooperation in making your child's educational experience positive and successful. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Tracy Hulsey, RN

South Central C.U.S.D. #401

Tracy Hulsey, RN, AND
810 E. 1st St.
Kinmundy, Illinois
618-547-7696 Fax 618-547-3144

Head Lice is not an epidemic but can spread through households quickly from furniture, bedding, stuffed animals, coats and other clothing items. To ensure you are doing everything you can, please read the information about head lice and follow the treatment instructions.

Over the counter lice shampoo medications are recommended for treatment but research has shown that these medications don't always kill every bug. This is why they recommend retreating.

Lice can reproduce every 10 days but only have 30 day life span. If a live louse moves from the host's head, they often die within 24 hours. Live nits are found very close to the scalp, often $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch from the scalp. Any other nits found more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch away from the scalp, can be presumed dead or an egg casing.

Once the egg hatches, the shell or casing is left. This casing can be there for days or weeks until the "cement-like" glue is removed from the hair. But you can be assured that most of these nits away from the scalp are only egg casings and are not going to reproduce. Dawn dishwashing soap or vinegar can help to loosen the glue and remove the casings. Continued hair washing will eventually pull the other nits out, but it will take several washings. Mayonnaise does not kill live bugs or nits.

Heat from a blow dryer will also kill the eggs, so I always encourage parents to blow dry their child's hair as often as possible. I have seen girls in the past with dead nits or egg casing, and never had a full blown case of head lice or live bugs. I think it has a lot to do with blow drying.

Spraying pesticides throughout the house only works if it lands directly on the live bug. It is not a necessary step to eliminate the head lice in your home.

Checklist for Treating Head lice

- ✓ Treat or check **every** person in the house
- ✓ Treat hair with appropriate lice killing product, especially if live nits are found. Follow package instructions.
- ✓ Retreat hair in 7-10 days and use a different lice treating shampoo.
- ✓ Remove all nits. **This is the only way to prevent reoccurrence!**
- ✓ Remove bedding and any other stuffed animals, pillows, and clothing, then dry them in the dryer for 20-30 minutes to kill live bugs.
- ✓ Clean all brushes, combs or hair care items with hot water.
- ✓ Thoroughly vacuum every side of mattresses, floor and furniture.
- ✓ Notify other families you have been in contact with.
- ✓ Blow drying hair will continue to kill nits.