

EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

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Lice Alert

From the nurse's office

- **Please check your child's hair carefully and treat any positive cases.**
- **There are many over the counter lice treatments available. Follow the directions carefully. Rarely, a case may require a shampoo prescribed by a physician.**
- **Please report all cases of lice to the nurse at 908-782-6464 ext. 214.**

Lice Facts:

- **Lice are extremely tiny, only 2-4 mm (1/16 inch) in length and may appear grayish-black, reddish-brown, or off-white in color.**
- **Lice crawl, but cannot jump or fly.**
- **Lice cannot live off humans for more than 24 hours and do not live on pets.**
- **Nits are lice eggs which appear as tiny oval white spots that stick to the hair shaft at an angle.**

Prevention tips:

- **Children should be taught not to share combs, brushes, hats, barrettes, helmets, headphones or pillows.**
- **Parents should check their children weekly using a bright light and magnifying glass. Scalp itchiness is the primary symptom of lice. Areas where nits present include but are not limited to the nape of the neck, behind the ears, and the crown of the head.**

Treatment:

- **Use a lice-killing shampoo (pediculocide) recommended by your pharmacist or healthcare provider. Follow the directions carefully. Discard the comb after removing all the nits.**
- **Vacuum and /or wash all personal items that have been in contact with the hair, such as sheets, coats, pillows, furniture, towels, etc. This must be done the same day that the shampoo treatment is done.**
- **Items that cannot be washed or vacuumed should be placed in a sealed plastic bag for two weeks. (Stuffed animals, etc.)**
- **Monitor the scalp for several weeks, and retreat if reinfestation occurs. Check other family members and treat positive cases. Using a lice shampoo when no lice are present does not prevent lice, so use the shampoo **ONLY** when a positive case is identified.**
- **Students that are screened by the nurse and found to have lice will be sent home from school. They must be checked by the nurse before they return to the classroom. Positive cases are handled confidentially.**