



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF GREENVILLE COUNTY
MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Dear Parent and Students:

Based on our experience in the county schools, it was found that head lice have become a growing problem. This is reportedly true across the nation as well. Lice do not respect race, religion, age, social status, or education. Though they do not pose a major health hazard, they can be very irritating. This letter is designed to give you some general information about head lice and to enlist your help in preventing a problem in our schools during the coming year.

HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM?

1. Itching of the scalp, persistent scratching especially about the neckline and ears.
2. Seeing live lice: These are brown, grayish-white or may assume the color of the person's hair and are about the size of small ants. The lice should not be confused with dandruff which is thin and flaky.
3. Seeing lice eggs (nits) attached to the hair shaft near the scalp: Nits are shiny, grayish-white ovals that look like dandruff or droplets of hair spray but cannot be flicked off.

HOW DO YOU GET HEAD LICE?

1. Head lice crawl from one person to another by direct contact. They do not hop, jump or fly.
2. Lice are transmitted by means of combs, hats, wigs, brushes or other objects which come in contact with hair.
3. They can fall on clothing, book bags, backpacks, sofas, rugs, pillows, bed linens and from there crawl into the hair of people who previously were not infested.

HOW DO YOU CONTROL HEAD LICE?

It is the responsibility of parents to inspect their children's hair. Schools cannot be expected to assume this responsibility on a regular basis.

1. Do not share hats, coats, head gear, combs, or brushes.
2. Inspect hair weekly or more often for presence of lice and/or nits.
3. If you find lice or nits, treat promptly and according to directions accompanying the product used.

HOW DO YOU TREAT HEAD LICE?

1. Inspect the hair of all family members and treat those who are infested. Anyone sharing a bed with an infested person should be treated even if no lice or nits are seen.