



**THREE VILLAGE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The mission of the Three Village Central School District, in concert with its families and community, is to provide an educational environment which will enable each student to achieve a high level of academic proficiency and to become a well-rounded individual who is an involved, responsible citizen.

**Paula Bienia, Principal
Patricia Essensfeld, Assistant Principal**

Minnesauke Elementary School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

At this time there has been a case of pediculosis (head lice) in your child's classroom. In order to avoid any further infestation, please check your child's/children's head for any evidence of lice and or nits. Although head lice do not transmit disease, they are a common nuisance problem. Head lice can spread easily if precautions are not taken. If your child/children do not show signs of infestation, we encourage you to continue to check their heads at least every week.

The following information is being provided to you to help deal with this problem.

What to look for:

- Itchiness of the head and scratching.
- The presence of nits which may resemble small flakes of dandruff, but do not fall from the hair when brushed or blown with a dryer. They are actually glued to the hair and look like tiny beads (usually shiny and opalescent, but may vary from white to black in color). Generally they are first found in the hairline at the back of the neck and in the hair around the ears. They hatch in 3 to 10 days.
- The presence of the live lice, grayish or darker colored insects less than 1/8 inch long.
- Secondary scalp infection from scratching and presence of head sores.
- In severe cases, swollen lymph glands in neck and arm pits.

How the Lice or Nits are spread:

- By direct contact such as having heads close to the infested hair, or sleeping in the same bed used by the person with head lice.
- By using combs, brushes, caps, scarves, or jackets of the infested person.
- In shops, by trying on hats or wigs.

How to Prevent the Spread of Lice or Nits:

- By frequent checking of heads (daily, when lice have been reported).
- By notifying the school immediately if you find evidence of lice or nits. It is incumbent upon the parents to notify the school if a child has or had head lice recently, even if she/he has already been treated and cleared by a physician.

How to Treat Lice or Nits:

By proper, prompt, and complete treatment which includes:

- a. Purchase pediculicide shampoos following recommendations from your physician or pharmacist. These shampoos can be found at your local drug store. Be sure to follow instructions carefully. This will ensure the best results of the medication. ALL NITS must be removed from DRY hair before returning to school.
- b. Do not apply anything else to the hair, e.g. your regular shampoo, rinse, or gels for a couple of days. If the nits are cemented to the hair and you are having trouble removing them, you can rinse hair with a solution of vinegar and water (1:4). This should only be done if you are having extreme trouble removing the nits.
- c. Nits must be removed with a fine tooth comb. Dipping the comb in hot vinegar sometimes will help loosen the nits. Sometimes nits will need to be removed by sliding nits off the hair shaft with your finger nails. Place all removals on a piece of tape and discard in the toilet. Be sure to use a good strong light close to the head when checking. This is a tedious job, and many parents realize that cutting the hair after treatment helps in eliminating the nits.
- d. It is advised that girls keep their hair up in a ponytail.
- e. Bed linens and clothing recently worn must be washed in hot water and soap using bleach or Lysol where possible, and dried under high heat setting. Any place the child's head has been, such as hats, hoods, scarves, jackets, sleeping bags, pillows, stuffed animals and beds, should be washed. If R & C spray is used, follow the directions on the can. It is available at your local drug store. Clothing that cannot be washed should be dried cleaned.
- f. Check hair every week for nits and lice.

How to Eliminate Lice or Nits:

Effective treatment to kill the lice requires 24 to 48 hours. If you discover lice or nits at home, a call to the school health office is necessary, and will help prevent further spreading. Parents should also notify parents, friends and playmates. Isolation from school is absolutely necessary until the hair is free from ALL NITS AND LICE. **REMEMBER**, you must bring your child to the health office for a hair inspection when returning to school. The child has to be cleared by the nurse before he/she will be allowed to return to the classroom. **DO NOT PUT YOUR CHILD ON THE SCHOOL BUS.**

Cooperation by all parents will help keep this nuisance to a minimum level.

Classroom Procedures for Confirmed or Possible Cases of Lice or Nits:

- The classroom teacher will report any potential cases or lice to the school nurse.
- When a case of lice has been confirmed, plastic bags will be distributed to each child to place all coats, hats and other personal items to minimize transfer of lice or nits. The school nurse will distribute the bags.
- Increase spacing between students. One example is to have a chair between each child when using tables. If necessary, additional tables will be made available. Increase space between individual desks when appropriate.
- Minimize physical contact between children. This will not be easy and will require more attention on the part of the classroom teacher.
- Custodians will follow specific cleaning procedures established by the district to help eliminate nits or lice in the classroom. This would include vacuuming carpets and furniture (couches), removal of area rugs or carpets for approximately ten school days after the class has been declared nit free, washing all tables, desks, and other appropriate areas, and mopping floors with a bleach solution or other cleanser.

Thank you for your cooperation.