



A Preventative Message from Your School Nurse

The Medford School District follows the evidence based guide-lines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Association of School Nurses (NASN), and the American Academy of pediatrics (AAP) in regards to pediculosis/head lice management. It is the position of the CDC, NASN, and AAP that the management of pediculosis should NOT disrupt the educational process.

Head lice are not considered an infectious disease but rather a nuisance. Lice are not a sign of poor hygiene and they do not spread disease. They are commonly found in children due to their close contact with each other. Parents should discourage their children from sharing personal items such as hats, scarves, head bands, helmets, brushes, combs or pillows to decrease the likelihood of spread from one person to another. If someone in your child's class develops head lice, there is no reason to assume your child will 'catch' lice.

Head lice are confirmed by the identification of a live louse on the head. Students identified with live lice can stay in school the remainder of the day and may return after treatment with a pediculocide. A student suspected of having lice will be checked at the final part of the school day whenever possible to minimize stigmatization. No letter will be sent home and classroom head checks will not be performed. Only parents/guardians of students with active lice will be notified. Parents are encouraged to check their child's hair weekly and may consult with the school nurse as a resource.

Thank you for helping our community by dispelling myths and increasing awareness about head lice prevention practices.